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# CENTRAL NEW YORK

*AN INLAND EMPIRE*





# CENTRAL NEW YORK

## AN INLAND EMPIRE

*Comprising:*

ONEIDA	CAYUGA
MADISON	TOMPKINS
ONONDAGA	CORTLAND
CHENANGO	

*Counties*

AND THEIR PEOPLE

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VOLUME II

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CHAPTER I  
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION





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## CHAPTER I

### *Transportation and Communication*

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CENTRAL New York, at the close of the War of 1812, was traversed by several major highways. East from Utica stretched the famous Mohawk Turnpike which connected that growing village with Schenectady and Albany. To the west ran the well-known Seneca Turnpike, a more recent name for the Old Genesee Road. Madison, Onondaga and Cayuga were crossed by this thoroughfare which continued on its way to Canandaigua. From this village ran a road, built by the Ontario and Genesee Company, that connected with Buffalo and Lake Erie. To the north of the Seneca Turnpike a road ran from the western end of Lake Oneida to Rochester. South of the Seneca Turnpike was the Great Western Turnpike which in its earlier days ran from Albany to Cherry Valley. Later, this road was extended by various additions and branches until it reached the western limits of the State. From Cherry Valley one might travel southwest through Cooperstown to Sherburne from which a highway ran to Cayuga Lake by the way of Homer. Or, if one preferred, he might leave Cherry Valley by a branch that swept westward through Cazenovia to Manlius which also was a station on the Seneca Turnpike. Those wishing to reach Ithaca would go from Sherburne to Homer where the Cayuga Turnpike connected that center with Ithaca. From Ithaca the road continued on to Bath, a famous intersection point during the early nineteenth century. And at Bath there was a road leading to Pennsylvania through the village of Owego. At Owego a direct road ran to Ithaca from which one might journey to Geneva over the Geneva and Ithaca Turnpike. On reaching Geneva one encountered the Seneca Turnpike.

Such, in brief, were the highways that crossed Central New York by 1815. Hundreds of shorter roads intersected these thoroughfares, thus providing transportation facilities from the various villages within the counties, and there were still many more that led to the numerous farms that dotted the country. In all probability new and improved turnpikes would have been built during the years that followed—and a few were constructed—had it not been for the advent of the canal, railroad, and the great expense incident to the maintenance of the roads themselves. As pointed out in the previous volume, few of the turnpike companies actually made a profit, and that in spite of the tolls they were permitted to exact from stage, mail, and freight coaches. The turnpike age, so far as initial building and investment were concerned, came to an end by 1820 though, for decades, these roads served as one of the chief avenues for travel and communication. Many of our present highways follow the path laid down by the turnpikes—witness United States Highways, Numbers Five and Twenty.

Over these main arteries thousands of pioneers travelled in search of new homes. They came on foot, horseback and in wagons, and as they settled on farms or in some struggling hamlet, the tide of business enterprise followed. Grain, cattle, hides, wool, potash, staples of an agrarian society, were transported to mill, tannery and factory. Often the farmer hauled this produce; later the miller and distiller did some of the work, and one may be certain that local shopkeepers kept their own teams busy carrying supplies needed for a growing frontier. In time, there appeared the freight wagon which transported most of these and other commodities. Driven by trained and expert horsemen, these lumbering carts moved along at the rate of twenty miles a day. Most of the trips were of no great length, though in some cases freight was transported direct from Cayuga to Utica, while through freights journeyed from Albany to Buffalo.

For passenger and mail service, there were the stage coaches. Enterprising traders and business men covered the turnpikes with local and express stages; others operated coaches between these main thoroughfares. One of these concerns, known as the Western Mail Stages, ran east and west of Utica to the great satisfaction of its proprietors, Beal, Platt and Parker. Parker's management of this line reached considerable heights; his coaches radiating



from Utica to Rome, Onondaga, Oswego, Cooperstown, Owego and Ithaca. Or to use another illustration, mention might be made of the lines operating from Ithaca. Here Samuel H. Watkins maintained coaches between 1825 and 1827. Jesse Grant owned a line between Ithaca, Newburg, Geneva and Auburn, while



NEW YORK CENTRAL STATION, SYRACUSE

Chauncey L. Grant had stages that went to Catskill, Geneva, Jersey City, Bath and Elmira. Joseph Cummings provided service between Ithaca and Utica. Practically every village like Salina, Auburn, Cortland, Rome and Oxford also had its share of local lines.

When one pauses to consider the conditions of travel, especially during the winter and rainy seasons, one wonders that the mails ever got through and that passengers ever reached their destinations safely. Yet they did and in relative comfort. The speed travelled would have confounded those who had journeyed over these roads in the 1790s. Taverns, inns and hotels sprinkled the roads; there were eleven, for example, between Fayetteville and Salina. At

these hostelry accommodations of a sort might be had by those who went first class, while those of smaller incomes frequented some wagon stand or tavern where they rubbed shoulders with the wagoners and drivers of cattle. And, as one might expect, these less expensive inns were the scene of heavy drinking, foul language and an occasional brawl. Dens of iniquity, the pious termed them and demanded that local and State governments should immediately eradicate them from the face of the earth. Temperance and Tract advocates showered their petitions and pamphlets, as will presently be shown, in an endeavor to save souls and bring God's Kingdom on Earth into being.

Closely identified with these reformers were those who railed at the improper observance of the Sabbath by the stage and mail coaches. Hoping to keep the Lord's Day holy, it was proposed that rival companies should be founded whose coaches would not move on Sunday. Efforts of this type culminated in the appearance of the so-called "Pioneer Lines" which for a time met with some success. "The Pioneer stages," one advocate claimed, "are preaching the 4th commandment loudly and more effectively than *all* the ministers of the land. . . . They have stopped multitudes of travellers on the Sabbath, and made men ashamed when they rode on." Among those who supported this movement was Gerrit Smith of Peterboro who, in December, 1829, circulated a petition throughout the towns of Smithfield and Fenner, asking the Federal Government to stop sending mail and to close the postoffices on Sunday. "Christianity," he declared, "is admitted to be the very soul of the systems of morals and religion in our country . . . essential as the Sabbath is, in the affairs of this life, it is, in relation to the things of the life to come, and in its office to prepare us for the blessedness beyond the grave, unspeakably, more important." But the taverns still flowed with strong drink, and Sunday continued to be desecrated regardless of what the pious said or did.

Long before the turnpike was overshadowed by the canal and railroad, there appeared the celebrated plank roads. The popularity of these roads spread rapidly. By 1857, so we are told, the State had chartered more than three hundred and fifty plank road companies, and the example set by New York was followed elsewhere throughout the country. Now precisely what was there about these roads that so captured the imagination and enthusiasm of



mid-nineteenth century Americans? Well, in the first place, they were cheap to construct and those who invested in these enterprises calculated that repairs and maintenance would always remain low. Built, as the name indicates, of wood—and New York was quite rich in timber supplies—the construction of such a thoroughfare entailed no great amount of grading, drainage and surfacing as was true of the macadam roads. To surface the latter, long and tedious hauls of stone were necessary; timber, on the other hand, could be carted more easily and at less cost. Moreover, in sections that were densely wooded all that was needed was to set up a saw mill and there on the spot prepare the required planks. Hard surfaced roads also had definite disadvantages to the traveller. Dust, dirt and mud were frequently encountered and though the drivers of the coaches literally performed miracles in bringing passengers to their destinations, travellers rejoiced when the journey had ended. Plank roads obviated most of these difficulties and while the passengers might be jostled about as the result of increased speed, it was not to be compared to the discomforts of the macadam roads.

Oliver W. Holmes, in a volume of the recent *History of the State of New York*, skillfully relates the method of constructing these roads. Sills or sleepers, as they were called, were placed lengthwise on the bed of a dirt road. On top of these sills heavy four inch planks were laid crosswise, their weight being such as not to necessitate the use of spikes or nails. During the experimental period, some contractors laid the planks lengthwise but that only encouraged the horses to slip, and in time these planks would spread leaving a space into which the wheels easily dropped. Others tried to place them diagonally, but soon it was discovered that the weight of the wheels coming upon one end tended to lift the other end of the plank. Invariably a slipping and sliding of the plank followed and in a short time the road was in a bad state. In some instances, builders used planks that made the width of the road greater than eight feet. Quite naturally the traffic remained in the center, with the result that the sides of the planks were in good shape long after the middle had worn out.

Most plank roads were built on but one side of the road, that side being selected that normally bore the heavier traffic. The other portion was left dirt or was hard surfaced. Where conditions

warranted, double roads were thus constructed to care for traffic going both ways. In either case, the planks were embedded in solid earth on the far side of the road so as to prevent decay; the inside end of the planks being left uneven so as to allow an easy ascent in case a coach had to pull itself out of the way of another. Farmers, merchants, traders and passengers were assured of a speedy and comparatively comfortable trip regardless of weather conditions. There is no wonder, therefore, that the public generally became most enthusiastic about these roads and hailed George Geddes of Onondaga, who built the first road between what is now Central Square and Syracuse in 1845-1846, as a great benefactor. Shortly thereafter plank roads were constructed from Syracuse to Tully and Cortland, as well as to Oswego, Camillus, Elbridge, Fayetteville, Manlius, Jordan and Skaneateles. Similar activities took place in the other counties, that in Oneida being the most conspicuous. Between 1847 and 1855 no less than twenty-one companies were chartered for building plank roads in this county. Of these, mention might be made of the Rome and Turin road which ran from Rome to Lee and Ava and then on to Turin in Lewis County. The Hamilton and Deansville road covered a distance of fifteen miles. Then there were the Rome and Taberg, Central Square and Vienna, Utica and Deerfield, Holland Patent and Marcy, Winfield and Paris and Utica and Frankfort companies. The Canastota Plank Road Company, sponsored by Gerrit Smith, operated between Canastota and Morrisville in Madison County.

Those of us who remember journeying over the dirt and hard surfaced roads of the late nineteenth century may well inquire why the plank roads were not then in use. Now the advent of the railroad, of course, did much to lessen the economic advantages of the plank roads for heavy freight and passenger service, and to the average farmer the plank road most certainly was a blessing. And yet these roads disappeared. More important than the railroads was the actual cost of operation. Cheap to construct, engineers and directors soon found that replacements and repairs far exceeded earlier estimates. Sand and dirt might be thrown upon the planks to retard wear, but the feet of horses and the weight of the wheels made holes and ruts that were dangerous to travel and expensive to repair. These disadvantages came sharply home to the stockholders when the nation was disrupted



by the business depression of 1857. As a result, the owners abandoned or surrendered their rights one by one, though a section of the Trenton and Prospect Station road was operating as late as 1878. Had the cost of depreciation been less, Mr. Holmes believes the plank road might have continued in use in many localities until the advent of the automobile.

In the meantime popular enthusiasm was predominately in favor of canals and railroads. In the previous volume reference was made to the deplorable condition of the waterways and of the abortive attempts that were made to improve the same. Here and there, it is true, local canals and improvements had taken place, but in the main little was accomplished until after 1815. Now the story of the Erie Canal has been told so often and so well that it seems hardly necessary to repeat more than the main essentials. Clinton's Big Ditch, as this canal was commonly called, was authorized by the State of New York in 1817. On Independence Day of that year work was begun. Three years later navigation on the middle section was opened, an event that Syracuse celebrated in grand style. Finally, by the fall of 1825, the entire distance from Buffalo to Albany—three hundred and sixty miles in all—was rendered navigable. In width the canal was twenty-eight feet at the bottom and forty feet at the top, with a depth of four feet. A large number of locks existed across the State. Later, between 1835 and 1862, it was enlarged; its breadth at the top averaged seventy feet, at the bottom it was over fifty-two feet, and in depth it was seven feet. The entire cost of both undertakings exceeded forty-three million dollars.

Almost simultaneously with the initial construction of the Erie Canal, thought was given to the development of other waterways. As a result a number of subsidiary canals were built during the next three decades. One of these was the Chenango Canal which ran from Utica to Binghamton. Work on this artery was begun in 1834 and completed two years later at a cost of three million dollars. In the summer of the same year, construction was started on the Black River Canal which extended from Rome up the Mohawk Valley to Boonville, and thence to a point below High Falls by the way of the Black River. From High Falls there was river navigation to Carthage. The Erie Canal at Higginsville was connected with Wood Creek by the so-called Oneida Lake Canal.



In a short time this canal fell into decay though in 1867 it was rebuilt, its point of departure from the Erie then being at Durhamville. In the meantime the Oswego Canal, together with the Oneida and Seneca Rivers Improvements, was constructed. Syracuse was now linked by water with Oswego. To the west of this artery was the Cayuga and Seneca Lake Canal which met the Erie at Montezuma, thus connecting the Erie with Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. This canal was completed in 1828. Interest in this latter undertaking had been shown as early as 1813 when the Seneca Lock Navigation Company had been incorporated; nothing, however, in a material way resulted until the State took over the work in 1825.

The enormous expense incident to the building and maintaining of the Erie and its branches necessitated the charging of tolls. In 1838, for example, passengers going west from Utica were subject to a fare of eight cents a mile; those going east paid fifteen cents. Flour was subject to a four mill tax per one thousand pounds a mile; ordinary pelts and furs paid a cent and four mills a mile per one thousand pounds; and planks, if carried on a raft, paid two cents a mile for every one thousand feet. Other charges existed for commodities, animals and live stock. These various assessments in no wise lessened the popularity of the canals which immediately were covered with many freight and passenger boats. In 1826, following the completion of the Erie, a total of three hundred and seventy-two thousand barrels of flour passed through Utica; six years later, the amount stood at one million, one hundred and fifty-seven thousand barrels. The total receipts from all the State Canals from 1817 to 1870 slightly exceeded \$217,000,000, of which nearly \$114,000,000 came from tolls. Most of this came from the Erie Canal; the others generally showed a deficit.

The importance of these internal improvements upon the political, economic and social life of Central New York was most significant. Utica, Rome, and Syracuse, as well as many smaller communities, boomed almost overnight, while other centers that had been prominent in the turnpike age showed definite signs of decline. Farm produce and factory output found an easy and cheap outlet to the markets of the East. In addition millions of tons of goods and commodities passed over the Erie in exchange for the agricultural products of the Middle West. Although



OLD VIEW OF CLINTON SQUARE, SYRACUSE

Salt barrels and barrel staves on the bank of the Erie Canal. Photograph taken from the Weiting Opera House block, looking northwest



Central New York shared in the golden profit that arose from these transactions, the lion's share went to New York City, which had solidly opposed the construction of the Erie at an earlier date. New York City became America's most outstanding commercial center, a position she had not held before the Erie was built. From a national point of view the Canal led American commerce across the country rather than down the Mississippi. "Had the Mississippi formed the principal outlet of the rich interior," so one writer puts it, "no one will deny that the subsequent history of the nation would have been materially modified in a two-fold way—commercially and politically. More portentous than any commercial alliance between the Northwest and the South is the consequent probability that out of it there would have grown racial sympathy and political kinship, with what effect upon the great issues which culminated in the Civil War, or upon the present constituency of the American people, one may only conjecture." Finally, it should be remembered that the Erie led to a migration into Central New York and to the development of agriculture and industry, concerning which attention will be given in later chapters.

It is also important to remember that the Canal System of the State was conceived, constructed and maintained by the State. It was a State enterprise and undertaking, and stands forth, as does the Barge Canal of today, as an epoch making chapter in the story of State ownership of a public utility. When tolls were abolished in 1882, the Erie had netted more than forty million dollars profit to the State. New York ownership and operation of the Erie and Barge Canals constitute an accepted fact today. One would as readily question the wisdom of turning the Federal Postal system over to private management as to yield State control over these internal improvements. In conjunction with this fact, it should be recalled that the State for a long time owned and controlled the manufacture of salt.

The effect of this attitude of mind on the part of the people of New York is well revealed by an examination of the railroad systems of the State. Although the early railroads were built by private enterprise it is important to remember that many of them were aided by State loans. The Auburn and Rochester, the Auburn and Syracuse, and the Ithaca and Owego Railroads received more than \$650,000 in State aid. All of the early companies, moreover,



were chartered with the stipulation that the State might, at any time after ten and within fifteen years from the date of completion, acquire control and ownership of the same, provided proper remuneration had been made to the companies for expenses borne by the latter. Although New York never exercised this right, it proves quite conclusively that public opinion at that time was not hostile to the writing of another chapter in State socialism.

In dealing with the railroads of Central New York, it seems best for purposes of organization to begin with the year 1900 and work back. Such a procedure will avoid the repetition and duplication of names and will permit a treatment of various lines under their owners as of 1900. Among the roads servicing this section of the State in that year none was more important than the New York Central, whose main line crossed Oneida, Madison, Onondaga and Cayuga Counties. Railroad development through this area was somewhat retarded by the construction of the Erie Canal. Even after the railroads were built those lines that followed the course of the canal were subject to tolls required by the State on all property transported by them. In the opinion of the railroad officials this charge was "an unjust and improper discrimination." Ultimately, these tolls were abolished but as long as they were collected they evoked constant complaint from the companies concerned.

The beginning of railroad construction in Central New York came with the chartering of the Auburn and Syracuse in 1834; two years later the road was opened for traffic. In 1850 this road was consolidated with the Auburn and Rochester, formed in 1836, thus providing through service between Syracuse and Rochester over what is now known as the Auburn Division of the New York Central. In the meantime, the long discussed line between Schenectady and Utica was started; trains running over this road by 1836. In the same year the Syracuse and Utica was chartered and by 1839 was in operation. A little later a direct line was built between Rochester and Syracuse, connecting with a road that ran east from Buffalo. All of these roads were absorbed by the New York Central in the 1850s as was the Syracuse and Utica Direct, chartered in 1853. This latter line ran parallel to the Syracuse and Utica to a point south of Oneida City and then went straight on to Utica, not touching at Rome as did the Syracuse and Utica.

Thus it was possible, by 1840, to travel by rail across the entire State. Those who journeyed over these roads were astonished at the speed and conveniences afforded. "We left Albany," one writer recounts, "at half past two P. M. on Tuesday, went to Utica in the afternoon where we remained until five the next morning. Was at Syracuse at half past eight." There were many, however, who deplored the loss of time at Utica as well as the changes that had to be made at Syracuse and Rochester. Twenty-five hours between Albany and Buffalo was not bad in itself, but why the changes and delays at the way stations? Railroad officials recognized this defect and in 1842 the Syracuse and Utica suggested that direct and through service might well be undertaken. The idea bore fruit and in a short time this much desired improvement came into being. Later sleeping cars were added; dining cars followed at a much later date. Passengers either took their meals with them or ate at the various stations and taverns along the line. Cook's Coffee House at Syracuse acquired a name for its bountiful thirty-five cent meal with a cigar thrown in for good measure. And in case one wanted a stiff drink, locally made whiskey was sold at five cents a glass—and it was a *glass*.

Another important branch of the New York Central in 1900 was the road that ran northwest from Utica to Watertown, passing through Rome and Camden in Oneida County. Originally, this line was known as the Rome and Watertown Railroad which was chartered in 1832. In 1860 it was consolidated into the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg. Fifteen years later it became a part of the Lake Ontario Shore line but, in 1891, was acquired on lease by the New York Central. In the meantime the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg had gained control over the Utica and Black River road, formed in 1861 from the Black River and Utica Railroad. By various purchases the Utica and Black River extended its right of way north to Ogdensburg by the way of Boonville, Lowville and Carthage. To the west of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg line ran a branch of the New York Central in 1900 which connected Syracuse with the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg at Richmond in Oswego County. This road, known as the Syracuse Northern was chartered in 1868 and became the Syracuse and Northern in 1875. The following year it became a part of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg line. Also in 1900



a branch of the New York Central ran north and west from Syracuse to Phoenix and Fulton where it connected with the New York, Ontario and Western which ran north to Oswego.

South of the main line of the New York Central there ran, in 1900, a branch that connected Syracuse with Earlville in Madison County. Originally, this line was known as the Syracuse and Chenango Valley, organized in 1868. Seven years later it became the Syracuse and Chenango, and in 1877 was known as the Syracuse, Chenango and New York Railroad. At Earlville it connected with the main line of the New York, Ontario and Western. Both the Main and Auburn Division lines of the New York Central tapped several important roads running north and south. One of these was the Oswego and Syracuse branch of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.

Incorporated under the State laws of Pennsylvania, the Lackawanna soon acquired rights in New York. One of its first adoptions was the Ithaca and Owego line, incorporated in 1828 and in use by 1834. Twenty miles of strap iron rails and inclined planes connected these two villages at that time. For over a decade this company continued to operate but in 1849 sold its interests to a new line, the Cayuga and Susquehanna. Six years later it was leased by the Lackawanna and today is known as the "Cayuga Division." Not long after, the Lackawanna gained control of the Syracuse, Binghamton and New York Railroad. The genesis of the latter goes back to the Syracuse and Binghamton, chartered in 1851 and which by 1854 operated a line from Geddes to Binghamton. Two years later it was reorganized as the Syracuse and Southern, and in the following year it became the Syracuse, Binghamton and New York. Its total mileage was over seventy-nine miles. The Lackawanna also gained the Oswego and Syracuse road which was formed in 1839 and which opened its thirty-four miles of track in 1848. One of the influential supporters of this company was Gerrit Smith of Peterboro. Thus it was possible to travel by rail direct from Oswego to New York City through the very heart of the Inland Empire. The Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna, formed in 1866 and which operated between Utica and Binghamton, also became a part of the Lackawanna, as did the Utica, Clinton and Binghamton organized in 1868.



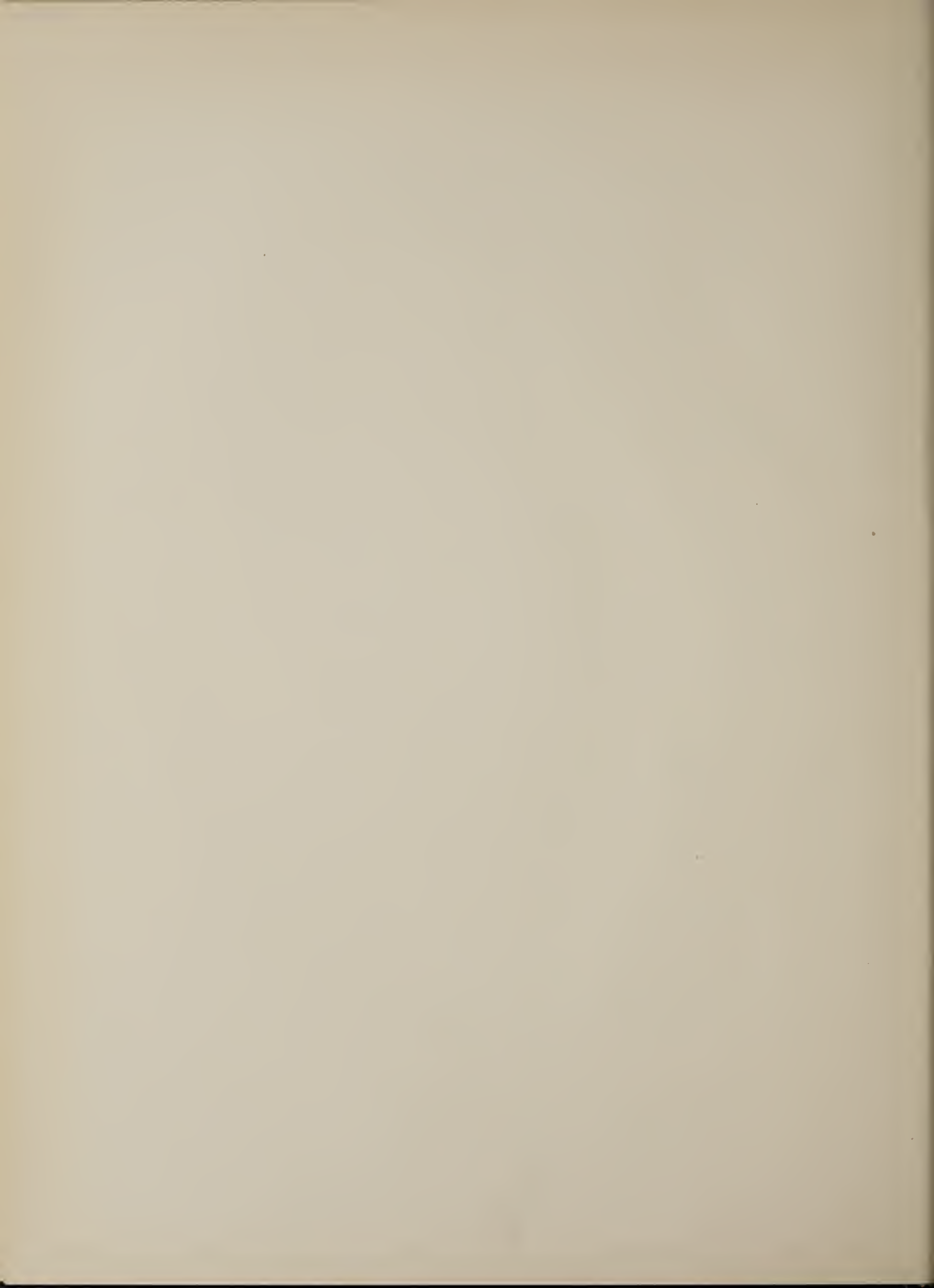
Crossing the tracks of the Utica and Binghamton branch of the Lackawanna at Four Corners in Chenango County was the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad. The genesis of this road goes back to 1866 when the New York and Oswego Midland was formed. By 1875 this line was operating from Oswego to Fulton, thence eastward skirting the northern shore of Lake Oneida to Oneida City. From here it went due south through Madison County to the city of Norwich, and from there on to Jersey City through the counties to the southeast of Chenango. In 1880, this road was reorganized as the New York, Ontario and Western. Another road that appears on the railroad map of 1900 is the Lehigh Valley, chartered in 1847. One of the important branches of this road was the line that ran from Freeville in Tompkins County to Ithaca, thence northeast to Cortland, Cazenovia and Canastota. From this latter point it went north until it met the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg branch of the New York Central a little to the south of Camden. The inception of this line goes back to the organization of the Ithaca and Cortland in 1869. Two years later it consolidated with the Utica, Horseheads and Elmira to form the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad. In the meantime the Cazenovia and Canastota road, formed in 1868, and the Cazenovia and De Ruyter, chartered in 1872, consolidated to form the Cazenovia, Canastota and De Ruyter. Later it was known as the Canastota Northern and as such joined the Lehigh as did the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira.

The Lehigh Valley in 1900 also controlled a line that ran from North Fair Haven on Lake Ontario to Waverly, passing through Auburn, Freeville and Owego. Originally, this branch was the Southern Central, founded in 1866. Crossing Tompkins County from the northeast and going south from Ithaca to Tioga County was another line of the Lehigh which ran from Buffalo and Rochester into northern Pennsylvania. Finally, in 1900 there was the Erie and Central New York that ran from Cortland to Willet Station, and the main line of the Delaware and Hudson which cut across the southeast corner of Chenango County. In addition to these various lines there were a number of other roads, some of which were never built, which ran for short distances between the villages of Central New York. To illustrate, there was the Madison

County Road, incorporated in 1829, to run between Chittenango and Cazenovia, but was never constructed.

The earliest roads were built with wooden rails with a flat iron strap fastened to one edge; solid iron rails were not generally used until the early 1840s. Although the latter were superior to wooden rails, it was soon discovered that they wore out quite rapidly; moreover defective rails were the cause of many accidents. Not until 1870 were steel rails introduced though some of the companies used wooden rails throughout the next decade. At first, most of the coach and freight cars were little more than enlarged stage coaches, though by 1840 something like the modern car came into being. Originally, these cars were poorly ventilated and seldom had any lighting facilities. Steam was generally used in Central New York as motive power from the outset; one notes that the Auburn and Syracuse utilized horse power in 1837. Baggage and railway express cars were in use at an early date.

The report of the State Engineer for 1850 showed a total mileage within Central New York of less than four hundred miles, much of which was of double tracks. There were some eighty-eight engines in use, possibly as many as three hundred passenger cars, and some eight hundred freight and baggage cars. The average speed varied from about eighteen miles on the Auburn and Rochester to about twenty-seven miles per hour on the Syracuse and Utica. The total number of passengers carried over all lines in 1850 ran from twenty-five thousand, on the Cayuga and Susquehanna, to over three hundred and fifty thousand on the Utica and Schenectady. The fares ran from three and a quarter cents per mile to a cent and a quarter, depending upon what class of service was used. Total freight carried by these companies amounted to over one hundred and fifty thousand tons; some of the railroads making no report in 1850. It is impossible to give comparable figures for 1900 as the reports of that year cover railway activities beyond the area of Central New York. It is evident, however, that the physical equipment, speed, service, number of passengers and tons of freight had increased by leaps and bounds. All of which indicates quite vividly what the railroads contributed in the way of development throughout the Inland Empire. Present day activities of the railroads as well as the introduction of electric roads, telegraph and telephone will be treated in subsequent chapters.





CHAPTER II  
POPULATION TRENDS



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## CHAPTER II

### *Population Trends*

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THE advent of the canals and railroads worked wonders for Central New York. Increased and improved facilities for transportation and communication not only materially changed the avenues of travel but also dotted the country with factory, store and shop. Not a single aspect of this tremendous transformation, however, would have ever reached great heights had it not been for an increase in the number of inhabitants within the Inland Empire. And this is precisely what happened. The Federal Census of 1820 showed over two hundred and thirty-one thousand residents within our seven counties. During the course of the next few decades the number steadily grew larger so that by 1860 there were over three hundred and ninety-three thousand. Forty years later the figure had topped half a million. On the other hand this growth lagged behind that of the State in general which may be explained by the rapid development of the metropolitan area of New York City. Excluding this urban center and the Counties of Kings, Westchester, Monroe, Erie and Albany, Central New York, however, grew more rapidly than any other section of the State.

Directing our attention more closely to the counties of Central New York, a number of interesting facts come to light as may be seen from an examination of the annexed population tables. In the first place one notices that in 1820 these counties, according to population, ranked as follows: Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Madison, Chenango, Tompkins and Cortland. Nor was this order changed for the succeeding eighty years except that in 1870 Oneida slipped behind its rival, Onondaga. The total population of all counties increased between 1820 and 1830 by 82,887 persons,



which amounted to a gain of over 26 per cent. Sharing in this increase were Onondaga and Cortland with gains of 30 per cent. each, Oneida and Tompkins with 28 per cent. each, Madison with 17 per cent., and Cayuga and Chenango with 18 and 16 per cent., respectively. Although these counties had several incorporated villages like Oxford, Norwich, Utica, Auburn and Syracuse, none of the latter can be classed as being urban in nature, though Utica and Syracuse showed definite signs as to what the future had in store. Thanks to the industrial and commercial advantages possessed by these villages, an urban population was in the making. Again, it will be noticed that in all of the counties certain of the towns lost in population between 1820 and 1830. This may be explained by recalling that these were formative years in the creation of towns and that many of these units were larger in 1820 than in 1830. To illustrate, Camillus had over seven thousand inhabitants in 1825 but only twenty-five hundred in 1830, the drop being due to the loss of Elbridge and Van Buren in 1829. Other towns like Pompey, Marcellus, Smithfield, Aurelius, Brutus and Scipio declined for similar reasons.

Few of the towns suffered losses in territory after 1840; hence such changes as took place in population may be explained on other grounds. Basically, this change came as the result of the construction of the Erie Canal and its subsidiaries, the advent of the railroads, and the tremendous industrial development that followed in the wake of these improvements. These factors had also been responsible for the infiltration of a large number of aliens from Europe whose strong backs and arms built canal, factory and railroad. Once these had been constructed, most of this labor remained in the localities where they had been employed, and thus helped to swell the total number of inhabitants. Although the high tide of emigration from New England had long since been passed, a goodly number continued to arrive during the years immediately before the Civil War. Central New York, on the eve of this conflict, had a population of 393,837, which constituted a net gain of 161,865 over that of 1820. During the course of this war, the rate of increase slowed down, there being but 416,178 inhabitants by 1870. All of the counties showed gains, excepting Chenango, Cortland and Madison, though the combined losses in these units amounted to only 1514.

Turning to the counties themselves one finds that Tompkins showed an increase of 1769 persons between 1860 and 1870. Every town, however, in this county showed a decrease excepting for Ithaca whose gain may be explained by looking at the village of Ithaca. In 1860 the population of this village was 6843, or roughly about 22 per cent. of the county's total population. A decade later it was 8462, which was about a 20 per cent. gain. Ithaca's natural advantages, the influence of the railroads and the foundation of Cornell University, clearly were shaping the fortunes of this growing center. Similar forces operated to advance Auburn in Cayuga County. In 1860 this city, which was incorporated in 1848, had 10,986 inhabitants or about 19 per cent. of the population of the county. A decade later, it had 17,225 residents—a gain of 36 per cent.; and in respect to the county, Auburn accounted for about 29 per cent. of the total number of inhabitants. Auburn's growth more than compensated for the losses sustained in all the towns, excepting Brutus, Ledyard, Mentz, Scipio and Springport which showed slight increases. In all probability, since the population of the county only rose from 55,767 in 1860 to 59,550 by 1870, Auburn's growth was brought about by an exodus from the rural areas to the city.

In the meantime Cortland registered a slight decrease. Whereas in 1860 there had been 26,294 persons within the county, a decade later there were but 25,173. On the other hand the town of Cortland jumped from 4817 to 6083, a gain of about 24 per cent., most of whom lived in the village of Cortland. In 1860 this town had about 18 per cent. of the county's population; in 1870, it had around 24 per cent. Homer, however, which had 4356 in 1860, dropped to 3813 by 1870. All of the other towns, excepting Harford and Marathon, showed a decline. The village of Cortland's position between Syracuse, Ithaca and Utica, plus the development of the future State Normal School, probably accounts for the growth of this center. In the case of Chenango the population in 1870 was 40,564, a net loss of 370 over what it had been in 1860. All of its towns, excepting Afton, Bainbridge, Guilford, Pharsalia and Sherburne, decreased. In sharp contrast was the growth of the town of Norwich. In 1860, its 4356 inhabitants amounted to about one-tenth of the entire population; by 1870, its 5619 inhabitants equalled 14 per cent. of the total number in

the county. Over four thousand of these persons resided in the village of Norwich.

Madison County in 1870 had a population of 43,522, which was twenty-three less than what it had been a decade earlier. All of the towns showed a decline excepting De Ruyter, Lenox and Smithfield. Lenox rose from 8024 to 9816; De Ruyter from 1817 to 2009; and Smithfield from 1509 to 2227. Included in these figures were some one hundred Indians on the Oneida Reservation. In the case of Oneida, the influence of the canals, railroads and industrial development was quite marked. In 1860 Oneida had 105,202 inhabitants, making it the largest unit in Central New York. By 1870 it dropped behind Onondaga but still showed an increase of 4806 residents. All of the towns, excepting Annsville, Camden, Kirkland, Marshall and Sangerfield, showed decreases. Rome and Utica, however, registered a gain. In 1860, the town of Rome had a population of 9830; a decade later it was over 11,000, a net increase of about 10 per cent. Most of these people lived in the village of Rome. Utica rose during these years from 22,529 to 28,804. It was, however, in Onondaga that the greatest growth took place. In 1860 this county had 90,686 residents; by 1870, it had 104,183, a gain of 13 per cent. All of the towns excepting Geddes, Lysander, Onondaga, Salina and Skaneateles showed decreases. These losses were more than offset by the growth of Syracuse. In 1860 this city constituted 30 per cent. of the county's population; in 1870, about 41 per cent. From 28,119 it had risen to 43,051, a net gain of over 34 per cent., making it the largest city in Central New York.

Between 1870 and 1900 the total population of Central New York rose from 416,178 to 506,288, a gain of 17 per cent. Most of this increase took place in Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga. Tompkins and Cortland showed slight gains, but Chenango and Madison registered losses. In the case of Madison, one notes that the county climbed from 43,522 in 1870 to 44,112 by 1880, but after that it steadily declined, there being but 40,545 inhabitants by 1900, many of whom lived in the town of Lenox. The total decrease amounted to over twenty-nine hundred persons or about 6.8 per cent. Outside of the 6363 residents of Oneida City in 1900, the remainder largely lived in rural areas. In the case of Chenango, the population declined from 40,564 in 1870 to 39,891



by 1880, and to 37,776 by 1890. A decade later it stood at 36,568, which was 10 per cent. below the figure of 1870. Norwich was the only town which showed a continual gain, moving from 5619 in 1870 to 7004 by 1900, most of whom lived in the village of the same name.

Turning to Cortland one finds that the population rose gradually from 25,173 in 1870 to 28,657 by 1890. At the end of the next ten year period, however, it had fallen to 27,576, a decline of 3.8 per cent. in a decade. The city of Cortland, however, did not share in this decline. Starting with 3,066 persons in 1870, it reached 8590 by 1890, and 9014 by 1900. During these years the rural population of the county remained more or less constant. In the case of Tompkins, the population rose from 33,178 in 1870 to 34,445 by 1880. At the end of the next decade it had declined by 1322, though by 1900 it had climbed to 33,830, which constituted a gain of less than 2 per cent. since 1870. The urban population of Ithaca likewise increased from 8462 in 1870 to 13,136, or a gain of 35 per cent. It was the rural section, therefore, that sustained the losses during these years. A more drastic decline in the rural population took place in Cayuga. Starting with 42,325 in 1870, it increased to 43,157 by 1880, but dropped to 39,444 in 1890, and to 35,889 by 1900, a decline of 15 per cent. since 1870. On the other hand, Auburn rose from 17,225 in 1870 to 30,345 by 1900, a net gain of over 43 per cent. Totally, the county rose from 59,550 to 66,234.

A similar trend toward an urban population appeared in Onondaga. In 1870 the total population of the county stood at 104,183; by 1880 it was 117,893; 28,354 more were added by 1890 and in 1900 the census showed 168,735 inhabitants, a gain of 38 per cent. since 1870. Although the rural areas rose slightly from 1870 to 1880, this gain declined after that date until, by 1900, their population stood at 52,229. Syracuse, however, grew most rapidly. With 43,051 persons in 1870, the number was over fifty thousand by 1880, and reached 88,143 by 1890. Ten years later it stood at 108,374, with some 8132 other persons living in the neighboring towns of Salina and Geddes, a large part of whom should be classed as urban. Including these towns, the total urban population amounted to nearly 70 per cent. of the county's population in 1900. Syracuse alone, in 1870, constituted 41 per cent. of the entire popu-

lation. A similar story may be told of Oneida where in 1870 the population stood at 110,008. A decade later it was 115,475; by 1890, it was 122,922, and by 1900 was 132,800, a net increase of over 17 per cent. since 1870. During these years the rural



SOLAR SALT VATS, SOLVAY

Near the old Gere Locks, north of the Erie Canal and south of the New York Central Railroad (1895)

population declined from 70,204, in 1870, to 60,074 by 1900, a loss of 13 per cent. On the other hand the combined populations of Rome and Utica rose from 39,804 to 72,726, a gain of 35 per cent. Collectively, these two cities included almost 55 per cent. of the county's population in 1900.

Summarizing the urban and rural population of the Inland Empire, it is shown from the appended tables that the rural element steadily declined, chiefly after 1860. Considering Auburn, Ithaca, Cortland, Utica, Rome and Syracuse as urban centers, one finds that these communities in 1860 had 76,878 inhabitants, or about



19 per cent. of the population of all seven counties. A decade later these cities, plus Norwich and Oneida City, had 119,149 residents, or about 28 per cent. of the Inland Empire's entire population. By 1900 these urban centers had 244,725 inhabitants, or about 48.3 per cent. Were one to add to these cities the populations living within their metropolitan areas, the total per cent. would rise to about 50. By the turn of the nineteenth century, therefore, Central New York had become an area equally divided between rural and urban inhabitants. Expressed in terms of counties, Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga were distinctly urban.

As might be expected, in view of the waves of foreign immigrants who came to America during the nineteenth century, the proportion of native born to foreign born within Central New York changed materially. Now it will be remembered that this area was originally settled by native born Americans. From a numerical point of view they must have constituted over ninety per cent. of the total population in 1790. From then on, however, this proportion has declined; very slowly, to be sure, during the first few decades, but by 1860 it had fallen to a marked degree. Failure on the part of the native population to maintain a high birth rate, the exodus of many to the western states, plus the successive waves of foreign immigrants who had a high birth rate, largely explains the decline of native born Americans.

Beginning with 1870, when the effect of these forces was becoming apparent, Onondaga had 23.1 per cent. of foreign born. Of the remaining 80.110 who are listed in the census as being native born, 54.4 per cent. had parents of foreign birth, leaving but 22.5 per cent. of native stock.<sup>1</sup> Of the latter number, a goodly number must have had one parent of foreign birth. During the course of the next two decades the number of foreign born declined. By 1900 there were 19.1 per cent. of foreign birth, 32.2 per cent. of foreign parentage, and 48.7 of native and mixed parentage. Precisely how many of the latter had ancestors of 1790 is not known, though recent genealogical investigation would indicate that it was quite small. In Oneida, similar trends appeared. In 1870, 23.4 per cent. of the total population was of foreign birth.

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<sup>1</sup> The percentage for those with foreign parents and those with native or mixed parentage is based upon the total number of white inhabitants. In the foreign born, a small number of colored are included.



Of the remainder, 43.6 per cent. had parents of foreign birth, leaving but 23.0 per cent. of native stock, most of whom must have had foreign grandparents. In 1900 the foreign born in Oneida stood at 18.6 per cent. There were 44,315 inhabitants whose parents were foreign born which amounted to 33.3 per cent. of the total population. Of the remainder, 48.1 per cent., a large majority must have had a foreign parent or foreign grandparents.

The census of 1870 showed that 15.5 per cent. of Cayuga's total population was of foreign birth. Of the remainder, 26.2 per cent. had parents of foreign birth, leaving 58.3 per cent. of native and mixed parentage. In 1900 the figures stood, 12.8 per cent. for foreign born, 24.4 per native whites of foreign parentage, and 62.8 for native whites with native and mixed parentage, few of whom had ancestors in America in 1790. In Cortland the number of foreign born in 1870 amounted to but 7.5 per cent. of the total population; 14.4 per cent. had parents of foreign birth, and 78.1 per cent. had parents of native or mixed parentage. By 1900 the number of foreign born stood at 5.5 per cent., native born with foreign parents, 12.8 per cent., and 81.7 per cent. with parents of native or mixed parentage. In Chenango, the number of foreign born equalled 6.8 per cent. in 1870, 9.4 per cent. for those with foreign parents and 83.8 per cent. for persons having native or mixed parentage. In 1900 the figures for Chenango stood, 4.5 per cent. for foreign born, 9.2 per cent. for those with foreign parents, and 86.3 for those having native or mixed parentage.

In Madison County the number of foreign born in 1870 amounted to 11.0 per cent. of the total population; 19.1 per cent. had foreign parents, and 69.9 per cent. had native or mixed parentage. By 1900 the number of foreign born amounted to 7.9; those with foreign parents equalled 16.5 per cent., and those with native or mixed parentage amounted to 75.6 per cent. In the case of Tompkins there were 6.4 per cent. of foreign birth, 10.5 per cent. for those with foreign parents, and 83.1 per cent. for those with native or mixed parentage. By 1900 the figures for this county stood at 6.1 per cent. for foreign born, 12.1 per cent. for those with foreign parents, and 81.8 per cent. for those with native or mixed parentage. Contrasting the various counties one finds the following:

	1870		1900	
	Native Born	Foreign Born	Native Born	Foreign Born
Cayuga .....	50,312 (84.5%)	9,238 (15.5%)	57,715 (87.2%)	8,519 (12.8%)
Chenango .....	37,785 (93.2 )	2,779 ( 6.8 )	34,904 (95.5 )	1,664 ( 4.5 )
Cortland .....	23,285 (92.5 )	1,888 ( 7.5 )	26,053 (94.5 )	1,523 ( 5.5 )
Madison .....	38,706 (89.0 )	4,816 (11.0 )	37,329 (92.3 )	3,216 ( 7.9 )
Oneida .....	84,301 (76.6 )	25,707 (23.4 )	108,323 (81.4 )	24,477 (18.6 )
Onondaga .....	80,110 (76.9 )	24,073 (23.1 )	136,508 (80.9 )	32,227 (19.1 )
Tompkins .....	31,051 (93.6 )	2,127 ( 6.4 )	31,754 (93.9 )	2,076 ( 6.1 )
Total .....	345,550 (83.1 )	70,628 (16.9 )	432,586 (85.5 )	73,702 (14.5 )

From this table it may be seen that Tompkins had the largest percentage of native born in 1870, and Oneida had the smallest. In 1900 Chenango had the largest percentage of native born, and Onondaga the smallest. It should also be noted in passing that the rural counties of Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Tompkins contained relatively more native born than the urban counties of Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga. Finally, it will be observed that the total percentage of foreign born in all the counties was less in 1900 than in 1870. Were one, however, to break the native born population down into those having foreign parents and those having native or mixed, it would be shown that only a small per cent. had American ancestors in 1790.

The same conclusion would appear from an examination of the principal cities. In Auburn, 17.9 per cent. of the population was of foreign birth in 1900 in contrast to 26.8 per cent. in 1870. In Utica the foreign born in 1870 amounted to 37.6 per cent. while in 1900 it equalled 23.9 per cent. In Syracuse the figure for 1870 was 32.4 per cent., and 21.9 in 1900. Rome in 1870 had 21.3 per cent. foreign born; in 1900, 16.4. Ithaca for the same years had 12.3 and 9.8, respectively. Cortland had 9.0 per cent. foreign in 1870, and 7.4 per cent. in 1900.

It is also of interest to note the source of these foreign born. In 1880 for example 16,659 immigrants came to Central New York from the Kingdom of Great Britain; 4488 more came from Britain's North American possessions. At the same time 27,410 arrived from Ireland, and 16,820 from Germany. France furnished 1108, Italy, 206 and Poland, 634. The remainder of the immigration for that year came from other countries like Norway, Denmark and Holland. Twenty years later out of a total immigration of 73,702, 11,818 came from Great Britain. Of these 1402 were





(Courtesy "Norwich Sun")

EARLY VIEWS IN NORWICH (1878)

- 1. Eagle Hotel.
- 2. Episcopal Church.
- 3. Lyon Creek Bridge.
- 4. Baptist Church.
- 5. Spaulding Hotel.
- 6. Congregational Church.
- 7. Academy, Court House and Jail.



from Scotland, and 145 from Wales. From Canada there arrived 7491, most of whom were of British origin. France sent 635 immigrants in 1900, while 18,029 came from Germany. Italy contributed 4437, Ireland, 19,101, Poland, 2954 and Russia, 1101. British, Irish and French immigration, therefore, declined between 1880 and 1900. On the other hand those from Germany, Russia, Italy and Poland increased. It should be noticed, however, that during these years most of the immigration came from Great Britain, Ireland, Germany and British North America. Most of the Germans who arrived in 1900 made their homes in the urban counties of Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga, which likewise received most of the Irish, Italian, Poles and Russians. And while these same counties received most of the English, Canadian, French and Scottish immigrants, larger proportions of these settled in the rural counties than those from Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland and Russia. Of the 145 Welsh who came in 1900, 128 settled in Cayuga and Chenango Counties.

Although the colored population of Central New York gradually increased throughout the nineteenth century, it never was over forty-two hundred in any given census year. In 1800 the Federal Census showed two hundred and fifty free colored inhabitants and one hundred and thirty-two slaves within Central New York; the Indian population does not seem to have been counted. Ten years later the number of slaves was over two hundred and fifty, but from then on steadily declined until by 1840 there were none. On the eve of the Civil War the colored inhabitants numbered around twenty-six hundred, and by 1900 there were 4172. This latter figure, as well as those given by the census since 1870, included negroes, Indians, and Orientals. Of these the negroes constituted the great majority. In 1800 the colored population amounted to almost .3 per cent. of the total population of Central New York; by 1900, it was .8 per cent.

As might be expected Onondaga and Oneida had the largest proportion of colored people during this century, though Cayuga since 1870 has had more than Oneida. These three counties, moreover, had the bulk of the slave population. In 1900, Onondaga had a colored population of 1.04 per cent., and Tompkins, 1.07

per cent., the largest of any of the counties. Most of the colored persons, except for the Indians, resided in Syracuse, Utica, Rome, Ithaca and Auburn. On the basis of these figures one may safely conclude that up to 1900 Central New York has had no colored problem of any importance. They, like the thousands of foreigners who have settled in this area, have become adjusted to American standards, government and the democratic way of life. Central New York has indeed been a melting pot, but the services rendered by German, British, French and Irish immigrants in the fields of government, education, religion, business and war vividly reveal how American they all have become.

## STATISTICS OF POPULATION

*Total per County*

	Cayuga	Chenango	Cortland	Madison
1790 .....	....	....	....	....
1800 .....	15,907	16,087	....	....
1810 .....	29,843	21,704	8,869	25,144
1820 .....	38,897	31,215	16,507	32,208
1830 .....	47,948	37,238	23,791	39,038
1840 .....	50,338	40,785	24,607	40,008
1850 .....	55,458	40,311	25,140	43,072
1860 .....	55,767	40,934	26,294	43,545
1870 .....	59,550	40,564	25,173	43,522
1880 .....	65,081	39,891	25,825	44,112
1890 .....	65,302	37,776	28,657	42,892
1900 .....	66,234	36,568	27,576	40,545

	Oneida	Onondaga	Tompkins	Total
1790 .....	....	....	....	....
1800 .....	22,258	7,698	....	61,950
1810 .....	33,792	25,987	....	145,339
1820 .....	50,997	41,467	20,681	231,972
1830 .....	71,326	58,973	36,545	314,859
1840 .....	85,310	67,911	37,948	346,907
1850 .....	99,566	85,890	38,746	388,192
1860 .....	105,202	90,686	31,409	393,837
1870 .....	110,008	104,183	33,178	416,178
1880 .....	115,475	117,893	34,445	442,722
1890 .....	122,922	146,247	32,923	476,719
1900 .....	132,800	168,735	33,830	506,288

## NATIVE AND FOREIGN BORN

	1860		1870		1880	
	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign
Cayuga .....	48,264	7,503	50,312	9,238	55,728	9,353
Chenango .....	39,139	1,795	37,785	2,779	38,012	1,879
Cortland .....	24,628	1,666	23,285	1,888	24,080	1,735
Madison .....	39,468	4,077	38,706	4,816	39,985	4,127
Oneida .....	78,834	26,368	84,301	25,707	92,040	23,435
Onondaga .....	70,638	20,048	80,110	24,073	94,509	23,384
Tompkins .....	29,906	1,503	31,051	2,127	32,272	2,173
Total .....	330,877	62,960	345,550	70,628	376,636	66,086

	1890		1900	
	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign
Cayuga .....	55,685	9,617	57,715	8,519
Chenango .....	25,900	1,876	34,904	1,664
Cortland .....	26,671	1,986	26,053	1,523
Madison .....	38,991	3,901	37,329	3,216
Oneida .....	97,667	25,255	108,323	24,477
Onondaga .....	115,191	31,056	136,508	32,227
Tompkins .....	30,786	2,137	31,754	2,076
Total .....	400,891	75,828	432,586	73,702

## NATIVE AND FOREIGN BORN IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

	1870		1880	
	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign
Auburn .....	12,583	4,642	16,981	4,943
Cortland .....	2,775	291	3,686	364
Ithaca .....	7,427	1,035	8,034	1,071
Rome .....	5,989	1,527	9,698	2,496
Utica .....	18,955	9,849	24,581	9,333
Syracuse .....	29,061	13,990	38,774	13,018

	1890		1900	
	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign
Auburn .....	20,199	5,659	24,909	5,436
Cortland .....	7,729	862	8,332	682
Ithaca .....	9,776	1,303	11,826	1,310
Rome .....	11,878	3,113	12,816	2,527
Utica .....	32,238	11,769	42,913	13,470
Syracuse .....	65,801	22,342	84,617	23,757



## CENTRAL NEW YORK

WHITE AND COLORED POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

	Cayuga			Chenango			Cortland		
	White	Colored		White	Colored		White	Colored	
		Free	Slave		Free	Slave		Free	Slave
1800	15,835	19	53	16,031	40	16	....	....	....
1810	29,682	86	75	21,615	76	13	8,867	2	0
1820	36,658	191	48	31,019	189	7	16,456	48	3
1830	47,579	369		36,969	267	2	23,753	38	
1840	49,903	435		40,512	273		24,561	46	
1850	54,915	543		40,047	264		25,098	42	
1860	55,316	451		40,671	263		26,278	16	
1870	58,890	660		40,259	305		25,115	58	
1880	64,384	697		39,605	286		26,732	93	
1890	64,721	581		37,474	302		28,564	93	
1900	65,532	702		36,355	213		27,494	82	

	Madison			Oneida			Onondaga		
	White	Colored		White	Colored		White	Colored	
		Free	Slave		Free	Slave		Free	Slave
1800	....	...	...	22,133	73	52	7,669	18	11
1810	24,932	177	35	33,581	130	81	25,823	114	50
1820	32,016	182	10	50,620	368	9	41,213	195	59
1830	38,811	227		70,858	453	15	58,481	492	
1840	39,785	223		84,666	644		67,434	477	
1850	42,774	298		98,894	672		85,277	613	
1860	43,160	385		104,563	639		90,131	555	
1870	43,124	398		109,358	650		103,475	708	
1880	43,646	466		114,837	638		116,999	894	
1890	42,501	391		122,370	552		145,147	1100	
1900	40,185	360		132,306	494		166,978	1757	

	Tompkins			Total		
	White	Colored		White	Colored	
		Free	Slave		Free	Slave
1800	....	...	...	61,668	150	132
1810	....	...	...	144,500	585	254
1820	20,609	66	6	228,591	1,239	142
1830	36,311	234		312,762	2,080	17
1840	37,695	253		344,556	2,351	
1850	38,421	325		385,426	2,757	
1860	31,112	297		391,231	2,606	
1870	32,777	401		412,998	3,180	
1880	33,980	465		440,183	3,539	
1890	32,520	413		473,297	3,432	
1900	33,266	464		502,216	4,172	

<sup>1</sup> Included among the colored, after 1870, are Indians and Orientals.

## POPULATION OF CITIES

	Syracuse	Utica	Auburn	Cortland	Ithaca	Rome	Oneida	Norwich
1820 .....	.....	2,972	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
1830 .....	.....	8,323	4,486	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
1840 .....	.....	12,782	5,626	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
1850 .....	22,271	17,565	9,548	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
1860 .....	28,119	22,529	10,986	4,817 <sup>a</sup>	6,843	4,000	.....	4,356 <sup>b</sup>
1870 .....	43,051	28,804	17,225	3,066	8,462	3,584	3,262	4,279
1880 .....	51,792	33,914	21,924	4,050	9,105	11,000	3,934	5,756 <sup>b</sup>
1890 .....	88,143	44,007	25,858	8,590	11,079	12,194	6,083	5,212
1900 .....	108,374	56,383	30,345	9,014	13,136	15,343	6,363	5,766

<sup>a</sup> Includes town of Cortland; <sup>b</sup> includes town of Norwich.

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CHAPTER III  
THE RÔLE OF THE FARMER



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## CHAPTER III

### *The Rôle of the Farmer*

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THROUGHOUT most of the nineteenth century, Central New York was predominantly agricultural in nature. From the point of view of mere numbers, the majority of its citizens lived on farms or in small rural settlements, and the fruits of their labor furnished a broad base upon which the prosperity of the Inland Empire rested. Important as was the trader, merchant, banker and artisan to the economy of this area, the farmer was far more significant. It is, therefore, quite fitting and proper to devote attention to the latter before turning to his fellow worker in town and village. Unfortunately, this narrative will be void of many references to particular individuals, as those who toiled in the field and forest have left no imposing monuments of stone, bronze or iron to remind us of their noble but humble efforts. Nevertheless, though the pen can not honor this or that individual, it may help to perpetuate the memory of those forgotten men and women.

In writing about Central New York in 1813, Spafford repeatedly mentioned the richness, fertility and excellence of its soil. At that same time he voiced the sentiments and feelings of this section when he deplored the lack of adequate transportation facilities. Not until the Erie Canal and the railroads were constructed was it possible for the farmers of this area to find an outlet for their surplus crops and live stock. By the middle of the century, however, the economic importance of Central New York was a tremendous factor in the entire economy of the State. Gordon, a prominent gazetteer of this period, wrote, "The great wheat district of the

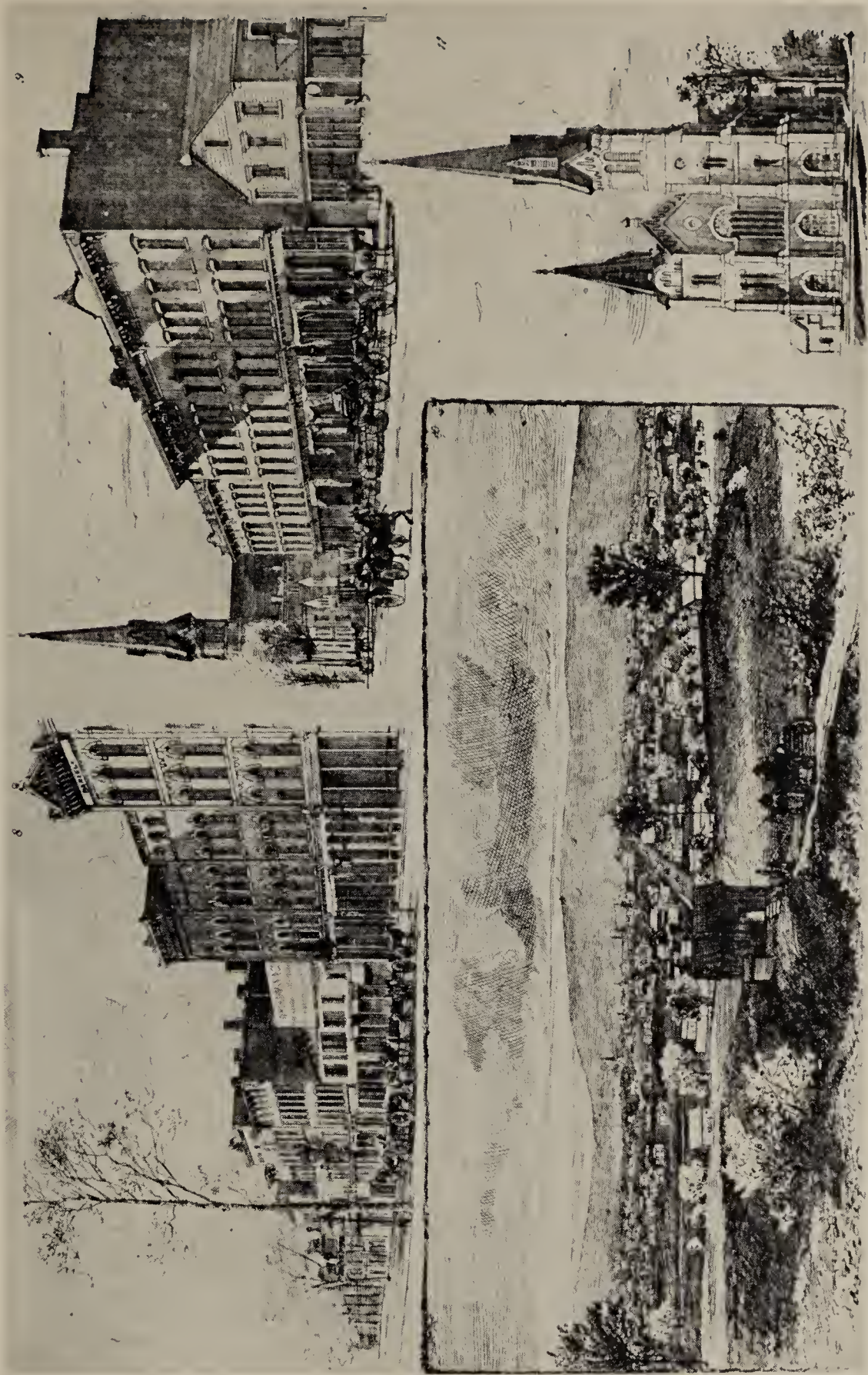


state commences in the valley of the Mohawk above the spur at Little Falls, in the fertile soil of calcareous alluvian, which over-spreads the valley at German Flats. This district, comprehending the central portions of Oneida County, extends westward to the lakes; and is bounded northward by the north ridge of the valley by Lake Ontario, and southward by a line verging southwest from Utica to the mouth of Cattaraugus creek, at Lake Erie. This is the garden of the State."

Realizing the importance of agriculture, the State of New York began to render aid at an early date. In 1791 the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures was instituted; two years later it was incorporated and in 1801 this society divided the State into as many agricultural units as there were counties. Over each unit—and there were four in Central New York at that time—a secretary was appointed whose duty it was to correspond with the members in each county, gather agricultural data and submit the same to the State for publication. The splendid work of this organization was continued until 1819 when the State established the Board of Agriculture and appropriated \$10,000 annually for two years to be used to promote agriculture and the domestic arts. According to this act \$1675 was distributed to the counties of Central New York. About the same time a number of county and local agricultural societies, patterned after those in England, came into being, but in a short time they disappeared. Later, in 1832, the New York State Agricultural Society was founded and from then on has played a most significant rôle in all agricultural activities. During the 1850s and under state law new local and county societies came into existence.

Each of the counties within Central New York had its local societies. In Onondaga, a society had been formed in 1819, Dan Bradley, Squire Munro, Martin Cossett and Augustus Wheaton being its chief officers. This organization died out in a few years, but was revived in 1838 and again in 1856 with Squire M. Brown as president. Later this society disappeared though, in 1878, it was re-organized as a joint stock company under Edward A. Powell and continued to function until 1891 when the State Fair was established permanently at Syracuse. In Cortland, a society was formed in 1838; William Berry, Jesse Ives, C. Comstock, C. P. Jacobs, H. S. Randall, Rufus Boies, Paris Parker and others being





(Courtesy "Norwich Sun")

EARLY VIEWS IN NORWICH (1878)

8. West Side of South Broad Street. 9. East Side of North Broad Street. 10. View of Norwich. 11. Methodist Church.



the first officers. The Cayuga Agricultural Society was founded in 1856, that in Tompkins in 1858 and one in Chenango in 1870. In Madison, J. D. Ledyard, Elijah Eaton, J. H. Dunbar, George B. Rowe, C. D. Miller and others promoted the fortunes of a county society founded in 1841. In the same year a county organization was formed in Oneida, its chief officers being for the next decade, Pomeroy Jones, Benjamin P. Johnson, Henry Rhodes, Ira S. Hitchcock, Dolphus Skinner, Pliment Matton and others.

During these years and throughout the remainder of the century a large number of town and village societies were formed. In Oneida there were those at Vienna, Vernon, Sangerfield, Kirkland and Annsville; in Madison, at Nelson, Brookfield, Fenner, Cazenovia, Hamilton and Lebanon. In Chenango, organizations were formed at Afton and Oxford, and in Tompkins at Dryden and Ithaca. Onondaga was represented by societies at Clay, Manlius, Pompey, Skaneateles, Van Buren, Lysander, Onondaga and Thorn Hill. Others were at Victory, Moravia and Conquest in Cayuga, and at Hector and Ulysses in Cortland. All of these societies, through their meetings and fairs, helped to promote the agricultural life of the Inland Empire. More significant were the State Fairs, sponsored by the State Agricultural Society from its beginnings at Syracuse in 1841 to 1899; after that date they were handled by the State itself. During the course of most of these years the State Fair was held at different places. Utica was so honored in 1845, 1852, 1863, 1864 and 1870; Auburn in 1846; and Syracuse in 1841, 1849 and 1858. Finally, in 1891, Syracuse was selected as the permanent site for the Fair concerning which more will be told elsewhere in this work.

In addition to the aid rendered by the State through the local, county, and state agricultural societies, the fairs, and the publications of the State Agricultural Society, mention should be made of the State Dairy Commission organized in 1884 and which was renamed in 1893 as the Department of Agriculture. Later, in 1917 it became known as the Department of Farms and Markets and, in 1921, the Department of Agriculture and Markets. At first this organization was not over-burdened with duty, but as more state laws were passed relative to agriculture, its work assumed increased importance. Further assistance by the State was shown in the establishment of agricultural schools and experi-



mental stations, though only two, the Agricultural College at Cornell University and the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, are within the limits of our study. Finally, there were the Farmer's Institutes, conceived in part by Professor I. P. Roberts of Cornell



HISTORIC WELLS FARGO COACH OF THE 1860s  
NOW USED TO CARRY WELLS COLLEGE SENIORS TO BACCALAUREATE SERVICE  
(Courtesy of Wells College)

University in 1886. The first meeting of the Farmer's Institutes was held at Ithaca in that year; subsequent meetings were at Utica, Ithaca and other places both within and without Central New York. Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century these institutes became one of the chief channels by means of which the State spread agricultural knowledge throughout New York.

Although the farmers of New York eagerly welcomed the aid and patronage of the State they were frequently sorely disturbed by the competitive practices of other economic groups. What was true of New York was also true of other states and, in 1867, under

the leadership of Oliver Hudson Kelley, there was founded at Washington, D. C., a national farmer's fraternity known as the Grange. The idea behind this secret society was to advance agricultural interests through the dissemination of general information and to effect, by political pressure, the passage of laws, locally and nationally, which would relieve the farmers of the unfair practices of the railroads and other so-called monopolies. Later, the Grange encouraged the formation of coöperative enterprises, stores and factories. Kelley pushed his scheme with much force and by 1868 had established other granges at Harrisburg, Columbus, Chicago and Fredonia, New York. Others were planted throughout the country in the course of the next few years, many of them in Central New York. By 1874 there were over two hundred and sixty thousand members within the United States; the following year it rose to over eight hundred thousand, of whom a goodly number were in New York State. As a result of over expansion along coöperative lines, the criticism of outsiders who viewed the Grange as a radical society, and the rise of rival organizations like the Farmer's Clubs, the Grange rapidly declined in numbers and influence. By 1877 its total national membership was under one hundred and twenty-five thousand, and by 1895 it was close to one hundred thousand. Other farmers' organizations which attempted by one way or another to foster their interests were the Farmer's Alliance, the Agricultural Wheel, and the Farmer's Educational and Coöperative Union of America. All of these had their members scattered throughout New York. Toward the close of the century the Grange once again became a vital factor; this aspect of the story, however, will be told in the following pages.

Some of the details of these farmer's organizations may be found in the various farm magazines and newspapers which were published throughout the State and Nation. During the pioneer and frontier stages, Central New York farmers had access to a number of different almanacs whose calendars, weather descriptions, agricultural advice and suggestions for cooking and sewing were well nigh indispensable. Sandwiched in between these articles were many witty stories and comments which appear to have been thoroughly enjoyed. Later, as local newspapers came into existence, agricultural knowledge and information was obtained from these sources. The first farming journal was the *Plough Boy* published



at Albany in 1819; later there were the *New York Farmer and Horticultural Repository*, the *Genesee Farmer*, the *Cultivator* and the *New Genesee Farmer*. Others followed in the course of time. Mention should also be made of the many books and tracts, such as the *Farmers' School Book* prepared by Professor J. O. Taylor and published in 1837, at Auburn. Finally, there were the many reports and publications of the State Agricultural Society.

It is time, however, to turn our attention to the agricultural activities of Central New York, leaving for a later chapter the picture of farm life. Of primary importance in farming is soil, drainage, topography and climate. In these respects Central New York has enjoyed unusual advantages. According to the *Agricultural Manual of New York State*, the average temperature in Cayuga County over fifty-two years was 47.2 degrees, and the rainfall for forty-six years was 36.80 inches. Sandy or gravelly loam, generously mixed with clay, mulch and alluvium, characterizes the northern half of this county; the southern half is a gravelly and clayey loam. Locke, Summerhill, Sempronius, Moravia and a section of Niles have concentrated on pasturage and dairy activities. Although grains have been grown throughout the county, wheat prospers best in a belt running north and south by the western shore of Owasco Lake. Corn thrives well in both the north and south; oats predominate northwest of Auburn and in the towns of Scipio and Niles. Tobacco centers in Ira and Cato, with fruits being grown around Sterling, Victory, Conquest and the shores of Cayuga Lake. In the southeastern part, much attention is given to dairying and many sheep are raised here as elsewhere. Hogs, poultry and bees have also attracted attention.

The soil of Chenango is chiefly a mixture of disintegrated limestone, slate and sandstone, and has done much to support an active dairy industry. Grains have been grown though most of these, as well as hay, which has been grown for feed. During the mid-nineteenth century when hops demanded a good price, many farmers raised the latter in moderate quantities. Cash crops have been hay, potatoes and cabbage. The average temperature and rainfall for a period of fifty-one years has been 45.4 degrees and 40.52 inches. In Cortland County the average for thirty-eight years has been 44.7 degrees and 39.57 inches, respectively. At first, farming in this county was general in nature, though toward the



close of the century dairying became more profitable and soon became the chief agricultural activity. Cabbage, potatoes, hay and grain are grown, the latter two being used for the production of milk. Sheep are raised in moderate numbers.

The early settlers of Madison devoted their time to the raising of wheat, corn and garden vegetables, though fruit growing was engaged in by some. Generally speaking, grains grow best in the northern part; the southern half devoting itself to dairying, especially since the 1870s. Immediately after the Civil War the production of cheese reached great heights; since 1890 this has been displaced in most cases by milk production. Hops, as early as 1816, were sold in New York City and while hopyards are found today near Oneida, Eaton, Stockbridge and Madison the prominence of this activity has greatly declined. The average temperature and precipitation in Madison has been 43.8 degrees and 40.70 inches, respectively. Oneida's story is much like that of Madison. Hops, grown as early as 1820, have been an important item as has the manufacture of cheese and butter. By 1865, Rome became an important cheese center. Shortly thereafter milk production became prominent and today demands much attention. The introduction of Merino sheep early in the last century led to the development of an active industry. Hay, grains, fruits and vegetables have also been successfully grown. Between 1889 and 1918 Oneida experienced an average temperature of 45.2 degrees and a precipitation of 48.24 inches.

Prior to the advent of the Erie Canal, Onondaga farmers raised wheat and, while large crops were harvested in the decades that followed, the competition of the Middle West forced a change in their activities. Dairying, fruit growing, the raising of barley and oats, and the introduction of tobacco in 1845, illustrate the chief items grown during the last half of the century. Sheep, horses and hogs were also prominent before 1900. Alfalfa has been grown since 1848. The average temperature is 46.7 degrees; precipitation amounting to 34.02 inches. Pioneers in Tompkins County raised corn, wheat, beef and pork, but shifted their interest to wheat after the opening of the Erie Canal. This was especially true of the area around Cayuga Lake. The northeastern part of the county has become a dairy district; the northwestern raises much corn. Ulysses rotates beans and wheat; Lansing has

specialized in grain and hay. The southern half of the county has been known for its sheep, potatoes and buckwheat. Fruits thrive around Cayuga Lake. The rainfall averages around 32.87 inches, and the temperature during the last half of the nineteenth century was 47.1 degrees. The soil of Tompkins is a gravelly or clayey loam, modified in the south by glacial deposits.

The agricultural development of Central New York may be illustrated by examining the amount of improved farm land throughout the nineteenth century. Since the area of each county varied during the earlier decades, as a result of boundary rectifications described in the previous volume, no attempt will be made to compare improved and non-improved farm land for the entire century. In every instance, however, the amount of non-improved farm land was generally small. The following table for three selected years shows the improved and non-improved farm land in the seven counties:

	1835		1865		1900	
	Acres of Farm Land	Acres Im- proved	Acres of Farm Land	Acres Im- proved	Acres of Farm Land	Acres Im- proved
Cayuga .....	414,678	257,663	420,392	323,105	413,924	341,950
Chenango .....	514,800	248,561	527,291	379,872	543,884	398,508
Cortland .....	299,000	118,857	299,053	207,982	303,254	232,647
Madison .....	377,309	223,147	380,814	285,877	388,866	388,866
Oneida .....	704,740	390,582	679,920	460,960	657,748	657,748
Onondaga .....	455,190	270,335	453,306	343,834	453,934	383,621
Tompkins .....	371,400	186,180	277,731	206,514	285,721	285,721
Total .....	3,137,117	1,695,325	3,038,507	2,208,144	3,047,331	2,689,061

From these tables it can be seen that the total acreage of farm land decreased slightly between 1835 and 1900. The drop in Tompkins is explained by the loss of territory to Schuyler in 1854. Actually, therefore, the real decrease was less than appears in the tables. On the other hand the increase in improved land amounted to almost a million acres; the greatest gains being in Cortland, Tompkins and Madison, the smallest in Oneida and Onondaga. In 1835, fifty-four per cent. of the farm land of Central New York was improved; in 1900, it was eighty-eight per cent. Contrasting this with the State at large, one finds that Central New York gained in improved land almost as much as the entire State lost.

Additional testimony as to agricultural growth within the Inland Empire is revealed by an examination of the crops raised. The ravages of the midge, Hessian fly, and a fungus disease did much to retard development during the first half of the last century; nor were these completely eradicated in the years that followed. Nevertheless the production of wheat within Central New York remained more or less constant since 1850, although the total for the State declined from 13,121,498 bushels in 1850 to 10,412,675 in 1900. In 1850, Central New York raised 13.5 per cent. of the State's wheat; in 1870, 14.4 per cent., and in 1900, 17.7 per cent. From the appended tables it will be seen that during this half century Cayuga was the largest wheat producing county; Onondaga was second, and Tompkins, third. In both Cayuga and Onondaga production increased, but in Chenango it dropped from 223,340 bushels in 1850 to 6910 in 1900, due in all probability to the rapid growth of dairying. Madison, Tompkins, Cortland and Oneida likewise declined. Prior to 1850 greater quantities were raised in all counties; since that date competition with the Middle West forced many farmers to change their economy. Most of the wheat grown within the seven counties was of the winter variety, though in the highlands of Onondaga, Madison and Cayuga spring wheat was raised in some quantity.

In respect to rye and oats it appears that in 1850 Central New York raised 4,516,517 bushels or about 15.0 per cent. of the yield of the entire State. In 1870 it amounted to 14.7 per cent. and in 1900 to 15.8 per cent. All of the counties increased their production of these grains, Onondaga standing first, Cayuga, however, led in corn. In 1850, 2,936,049 bushels of corn were raised in Central New York, or about 16.4 per cent. of the production of the State. Twenty years later it stood at 16.5 per cent. and, in 1900, it was 15.7 per cent. In addition to these grains, Central New York grew relatively large quantities of peas, beans, barley, buckwheat, hops and flax. It should also be noted that out of a total of 83,189 pounds of tobacco grown in 1850, Central New York produced 81,701 pounds. In 1870, it amounted to 1,485,866 out of 2,349,798, and in 1900, 6,037,377 out of 13,958,370 pounds. Most of the tobacco raised came from Onondaga, though Cayuga produced over a million and a half pounds in 1900. Maple sugar, honey and molasses were also products of the farm.



Prior to 1840, though potatoes were grown throughout Central New York, they were not an important item in agricultural economy. In that year, however, close to five and a half million bushels were raised out of a total for the State of over thirty millions. Thirty years later it had declined to some three million bushels out of twenty-eight million for the State. In 1900 nearly five million bushels were raised out of over thirty-eight for the State. Most of the potatoes grown in Central New York were raised in Onondaga, Oneida and Cayuga; Onondaga and Oneida standing tenth and twelfth, respectively, among the counties of the State. The utilization of potato for the manufacture of starch, after the middle of the century, did much to advance the raising of this plant. As early as 1840 hay production assumed an important place in the economy of Central New York, Oneida, Madison and Chenango being important centers.

Turning to live stock, one is impressed by the large number of cattle within Central New York. The development of this activity, however, was quite tardy. Of course, practically every settler had a span of oxen for hauling and plowing, as well as a cow or two which provided the family with limited quantities of milk. And as these animals grew old they were slaughtered for their meat and hides. This was as true of the village as it was the farm. Little attention was paid to the quality of cattle and no serious attempt was made to provide scientific feeding. Nor was the condition greatly improved during the first half of the nineteenth century, and that in spite of the importation of Holsteins by the Holland Land Company late in the previous century and of Shorthorns in the 1830s. Most of the surplus cattle were sold for beef. Large herds of cattle were driven on foot from various farms and villages to the markets along the Hudson and in New York City. So extensive did this practice become that enterprising individuals established taverns and inns to accommodate the drovers engaged in this work. One of these, known as Drover's Tavern, was situated at Oran on the Syracuse-Cazenovia highway, now the property and residence of Mr. and Mrs. Melville Clark of Syracuse. By 1850 many farmers had gone into dairying, chiefly for the manufacture of cheese. Madison and Chenango were quite active in this respect. Some thirty years later a tremendous revolution was introduced by

Gerrit Smith Miller, grandson of the noted abolitionist, Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, New York.

Gerrit Smith Miller was brought up on his father's farm near Canastota and, in the fall of 1865, entered Harvard College. Being a farmer's son, Miller became quite interested in a herd of Holsteins that he encountered on the farm of Winthrop W. Chenery, a few miles from Cambridge. Chenery's skill and success in breeding these cows evoked Miller's admiration and on his return home in 1869, due to ill health, Miller persuaded his father to undertake an experiment in raising Holstein cattle. In that year a bull and three cows, all in calf, arrived at Canastota from Weimer in West Friesland. Constant care and energy kept the herd intact during the long winter months and Miller's heart was gladdened by the birth of Agoo, daughter of Dowager, which had the distinction of being the first cow registered in the Holstein Herd Book of America and in whose honor a shaft was unveiled in 1929 before over fifteen thousand interested persons.

In 1869 American dairy cows produced between 3500 and 4000 pounds of milk a year. To increase this quantity as well as the amount of butter fat became the object of Miller's scientific investigation. From the original three cows, Miller gained in six years a total of over fifty-two thousand pounds of milk. Of this, Dowager, in one year, 1871-1872, gave over twelve thousand pounds and Crown Princess over fourteen thousand. Although Miller disposed of this herd and its issue by 1876, the records made by them and their offspring continued to climb. One, Echo, in 1885 produced 23,775 pounds, and one of her issue, Agassiz May Echo, in 1922, astonished her admirers by yielding 30,886 pounds. Miller imported other Holsteins in the 1870s from which was gradually built up the famous Kriemhild Herd of Peterboro which included such well-known cows as Empire, Plenty, Johanna and Prilly. Nor should one forget King Sergis and his issue, Carnation King Sylvia, whom Miller sold for \$106,000. Another prominent importer of Holsteins was the firm of Smith and Powell of Syracuse, who are said to have imported over twelve hundred cattle during the 1880s and 1890s.

Miller's outstanding work soon attracted attention of farmers throughout the State and Nation, and before the close of the nineteenth century the familiar black and white cow dotted the pastures



of the entire country. Record after record was smashed by these animals and while the Jerseys and Guernseys, imported in the 1870s, generally maintained a higher fat content, they could not rival the Holsteins in milk production. And on more than one occasion, Holsteins took top honors in butter fat content. Not all the cattle, however, in Central New York by 1900 were used for dairying purposes though they constituted a large proportion. In estimating the number of cattle in this area at an early date, the Federal Census takers of 1850 did not distinguish between live stock on farms and in urban centers. Subsequent sources made this distinction and on the basis of these computations one may safely assume that most of the cattle listed for 1850 were on farms. In that year, out of a total of 1,877,639 neat cattle in the State, Central New York had 335,650, or about 17.7 per cent. Twenty years later there were 2,086,236 cattle in the State, of which 362,272 were in Central New York, and in 1900 there were 551,089 in contrast to 2,059,715 within the State. Every county within Central New York, excepting Tompkins, showed an increase in the number of cattle, Madison jumping from 42,618 in 1850 to 178,308 in 1900. Oneida ranked second and Chenango third. In respect to dairy cows alone, Oneida ranked third throughout the State.

A goodly portion of the milk and cream produced in Central New York prior to 1870 was manufactured into butter and cheese. In 1850, out of a total of over 129,000,000 pounds produced in the State, nearly twenty-four million came from our seven counties, of which Oneida stood first with over nine million. Production in 1870 in both Central New York and the State was practically the same, though in that year Chenango jumped into first place among the seven counties with over five and a half million pounds. In 1900, total production in Central New York and in the State declined to 13,385,442 and 77,338,928 pounds, respectively. Competition with producers in the Middle West, and probably the increase in the amount of milk sold for liquid consumption, accounts for this drop. Onondaga led that year with over three million pounds, though Oneida was a close second; Cayuga being third with over two million pounds. The total amount of milk produced in 1900 amounted to 132,953,473 gallons out of 772,799,352 for the entire State. Oneida stood first among the seven counties with over thirty million gallons, Chenango second with close to twenty-



nine million and Onondaga was third with over eighteen million. The evident importance of the humble cow to Central New York's agriculture seems to be well established.

Equally if not more important to the early settler was the horse, of which the Morgan type was well adapted for the heavy work on the farm. Toward the middle of the century many farmers preferred horses with greater speed, and for a time it looked as though the barns were being converted into racing stables. In 1850 there were over seventy-four thousand horses in Central New York, out of a total for the State of nearly four hundred and fifty thousand. Twenty years later there were eighty thousand out of eight hundred and fifty thousand and, in 1900, there were over ninety thousand out of six hundred thousand in the State. In 1900, Tompkins had the smallest number of horses within Central New York, Onondaga having the largest. In 1850 there were over two hundred and eighty thousand swine in Central New York of which close to ninety-nine thousand were in Cayuga; Oneida stood second with over ninety-six thousand. A marked decline set in during the years that followed, there being but 91,403 in all seven counties by 1900, over half of which were in Cayuga, Oneida and Onondaga. The primary cause for this decline was in the development of the dairy industry.

Dairying also accounts for the waning interest in sheep raising. Prior to the nineteenth century New York farmers paid little attention to sheep raising; most of the animals being of a non-descript type. Such as they were, Central New Yorkers gained from them a coarse and poor grade of wool which was fashioned into homespun clothing. Pure-bred sheep were not thought of and no consideration was given to systematic or intelligent breeding. In the spring of 1802, Robert R. Livingston imported two pairs of the French Merino or Rambouillet sheep. Later, he wrote an essay on sheep and woolen manufacture which attracted so much attention that it was published by the State of New York in 1809. As a result of these efforts pure-bred French and Spanish Merinos were introduced on many farms throughout the State, though most farmers refused to budge from the beaten paths and behaviors of the past. Most of them, however, became ardent supporters of the Saxon Merino, imported for the first time in 1824. Few of this importation, or that of 1836, were pure-bred and in a short time

they tended to disappear and the Spanish Merino again came back in favor. During the forties French Merino became more popular as did the German or Silesian Merino, imported during the 1850s. Throughout these decades and down to the close of the Civil War most of New York's sheep were Merinos. After that date other breeds, such as the Southdown, Cheviot, Shropshire and Cotswold, were introduced. Many of these breeds as well as the Merinos were raised in Central New York, the first effort taking place near Oriskany in Oneida before the War of 1812. One of the most prominent Merino breeders was F. D. Gage of De Ruyter, who was most active between 1852 and 1861.

By 1850 there were 595,687 sheep in Central New York out of a total for the State of 3,453,241, or about 17.2 per cent. In Onondaga, which ranked first among the seven counties, it became an important activity and its representatives at Washington were constantly on tip-toe demanding increased tariff protection. Pompey, Onondaga, Fabius and Skaneateles led the towns of this county in sheep raising. In Cayuga, Ledyard and Genoa were active centers, and in Tompkins, Dryden and Hector. Norwich and Sherburne in Chenango, Truxton and Cortlandville in Cortland, Lebanon and Nelson in Madison, and Sangerfield and Bridgewater in Oneida were also important centers for sheep raising. During the course of the next two decades, sheep raising continued to be an important activity, but after that date it tended to decline. By 1900 there were but 201,735 sheep in Central New York, or about 11.5 per cent. of the total in the State. This decline was brought about by a number of factors. In the first place the price of wool fell to a point where it became difficult for many farmers to obtain a satisfactory profit. At the same time an increasing demand for milk caused others to go into the dairying business. Others, failing to realize the demand for mutton sheep, stopped raising sheep. Finally, due to inadequate fencing and protection, many herds were decimated by the ravages of dogs.

Central New York farmers also devoted considerable attention to fruit raising. In respect to apples, 3,636,521 bushels were harvested in 1855 out of a total for the State of 13,688,830. Oneida led in that year though in 1875 it was outdistanced by Onondaga and Cayuga. The harvest of 1875 throughout Central New York was somewhat lower than in 1855, and in 1900 it had



dropped to 2,379,657 bushels out of a total for the State of 24,111,157. As it was, Cayuga stood first within the Inland Empire with a production of 463,644 bushels. Most of the activity in Cayuga centered within the towns of Sterling, Victory, Conquest, Aurelius, Scipio, Ledyard, Venice and Genoa. In Chenango, which stood second in 1900, apples were grown generally throughout the county, which was also the case in Cortland and Oneida. In Madison, the towns of Cazenovia, Fenner, Lenox, Lincoln, Madison, Smithfield, Stockbridge and Sullivan raised apples in noticeable quantities as did LaFayette, Manlius, Marcellus and Onondaga in Onondaga. And in Tompkins those towns bordering on Cayuga Lake were active centers. In all of these towns considerable quantities of other orchard fruits were raised as well as berries. Onondaga and Cayuga were known for their strawberries. A summary of the value of orchard fruits reveals that in 1840 a total of \$218,448 worth was harvested in Central New York, Oneida standing first with \$78,506. In respect to the State at large this amounted to 12.8 per cent. Twenty years later the value had jumped to \$537,951 or about 14.4 per cent. of the production of the entire State. In that year Cayuga led, with Onondaga and Oneida being in second and third place, respectively. All of the counties increased their yields by 1880, the total being \$793,142 out of \$8,409,794 for the State at large. In 1900, the value of all orchard fruits rose to \$811,017 as contrasted with \$10,542,272 for the State, or about 7.6 per cent. Although the contribution of Central New York had declined in respect to the State, it actually increased within its own limits, Cayuga ranking first, Chenango second, and Tompkins, third.

Agricultural activities in New York State maintained a high level in value during most of the nineteenth century. Competition, however, with the agrarian states in the Middle West and a shifting of economic behaviors within New York led to a general decline in agricultural activity. By 1870 the total value of all farm products in the State amounted to \$253,526,153 of which \$42,002,182, or 16.4 per cent., was contributed by Central New York. In that year Oneida stood first with close to nine million dollars worth of farm products, Chenango second with seven million and Onondaga third with close to seven million. Ten years later found Oneida still in front, with Onondaga and Madison second and third,



respectively. Every county, however, experienced a sharp decline, the total for the area being \$28,107,145 out of \$178,025,695 for the State. As it was, Central New York's products amounted to 15.7 per cent. of the total for the State. In 1890 further decreases took place. Central New York yielding products valued at \$24,347,017 in contrast to \$161,593,009 for the entire State, or about 15.0 per cent. Although a definite drop had been registered since 1870 it is clear that the decline in Central New York was relatively less than the State at large. In 1890 Oneida once more led the seven counties though Onondaga was a close second, both having products valued at over five million. Third place was held by Cayuga. During the course of the next decade an upward trend took place, Central New York contributing \$26,316,355 worth of products or about 14.4 per cent. of the State's total, \$181,841,420. In respect to the State, therefore, Central New York's share, though larger in 1900 than in 1890, was relatively lower. Onondaga stood first among the seven counties (sixth among those of the State) with over five million; Oneida was next (tenth in the State) with nearly five million, and Cayuga third (fifteenth in the State) with over four million. It is interesting to note, moreover, that though these three counties predominated in non-agricultural activities in 1900, they still topped the others whose economy was primarily agricultural.

Finally, in this treatment of agriculture, something should be said about farm implements and machinery the total value of which, in 1900, amounted to nearly eight million dollars. At first, the pioneers who settled in Central New York utilized the same type of tools and implements that they had been accustomed to in New England or elsewhere. Hand-made wooden moldboard plows, generally iron-tipped, turned over virgin soil into furrows that were crooked, and quite uneven as to depth and width. Frequently farmers were compelled to plow land as many as three times before a suitable foundation was obtained for seeding. Little improvement took place until 1814 when Jethro Wood of Cayuga perfected a cast-iron plow with interchangeable parts. Forty years later came the Oliver chilled plow which in turn was followed by the sulky and the gang plow. The importance of these improvements upon agriculture was tremendous. In respect to harrowing, our ancestors for a long time had to content themselves with the "brush-drag"

which actually was nothing more than the top of a bushy tree. Many improved types came into being during the nineteenth century, notably a heavy wooden drag with teeth a foot or more in length. This implement could pulverize the soil and throw a covering over the planted seed. And as for cultivators, so essential for potatoes and corn, little was accomplished until after the 1860s when wheel cultivators were first introduced. Sowing machines, while relatively common, were none too practicable for a long time and most farmers scattered their seed by hand. After the Civil War, sowing machines and corn drills were generally employed.

When it came to harvesting and reaping, the first settlers did most if not all by hand. By 1840, however, harvesting machines, invented by Obed Hussey and Cyrus H. McCormick, came into use. None of them did more than cut the grain and, while more efficient than the hand tools, many farmers continued to use the old cradles. During the 1850s greater improvements were introduced, notably by the D. M. Osborne Company of Auburn, the forerunner of the International Harvester Company. About the same time the toothed-wheel rake superseded the "flop-over" rake for haying. Prior to 1825 threshing was done entirely by hand or through the use of horses. In that year a horse power machine, which dumped the threshed grain and straw together, came into use. Fifteen years later, separators were employed and in 1850 a straw carrier was added. About the same time many of these machines were operated by steam. In addition considerable improvements had taken place in huskers, shellers, cutters, pumps, forks and many other farm tools. And the introduction of wire fencing came as a godsend to those who found the use of wood exceedingly expensive. Tremendous strides, in short, were made during the nineteenth century in respect to implements and machines and much of the growth of agriculture in Central New York during this era must be credited to these inventions. Moreover, it foreshadowed still greater advances for the twentieth century.

CHAPTER IV  
COUNTRY LIFE





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## CHAPTER IV

### *Country Life*

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AGRICULTURE probably was at its best in Central New York toward the close of the Civil War. Competition with the Middle West was most certainly being felt, but several decades of prosperity had placed the Inland Empire in a most enviable position. Not only were there more people living on farms and in rural villages than at a later date, but the population was far more homogeneous. Racially, they were largely descendants of early American settlers. They spoke the same language and generally most of them were members of some Protestant faith. Politically, as we shall see, they were conservative in their thought and were slow to shift from the Democratic and Whig Parties that had dominated politics and government since the turn of the eighteenth century. Finally, it should be noted that their economic behaviors were more or less alike. Farm after farm presented the same general characteristics. Most certainly there were many who were poor in worldly effects, but the great majority enjoyed relative security, and in some cases were able to erect and maintain pretentious homes and indulge in many luxuries. Farm tenancy existed and there were many who worked as day laborers but, generally speaking, most farms were individually owned and operated.

Farmers' sons matriculated at Hamilton, Cornell, Madison (now Colgate), Union, Williams and other eastern colleges and universities. Even some of the daughters were sent to private schools like that maintained by Miss Willard at Troy. And it is interesting to note that upon graduation most of them returned to their homes to become country gentlemen, farmers, doctors, lawyers, ministers and housewives. Many of those who became prominent

in state and local politics and who had a voice in religious and social life were products of the farm. Town and city dwellers of this period frankly admitted the culture and refinement that existed in the rural areas. Husbandry, in short, was an honored profession and its followers took great pride in their activities and achievements.

The decades following the Civil War witnessed the steady invasion of industry and big business into the economic life of Central New York. Small villages became towns, and towns grew into cities like Utica, Rome, Auburn and Syracuse. Within these centers greater opportunities existed for professional and social improvement. The standard of wages slowly mounted, surplus capital piled up high in banks, and many a farmer's son on visiting the State Fair cast longing eyes at his city brother's good fortunes. Heretofore, those who had found economic restrictions too narrowing on the old farm had followed the advice of Horace Greeley and had gone west. But now the urge was to go to the city. As a result a steady trickle of young men and women poured yearly into the urban centers. The farm population became more or less static and in some sections actually declined, and that in spite of the arrival of foreigners whose presence tended to upset the well-balanced equilibrium of earlier days. The rugged individualism of the 1840s and 1850s was passing away. Renters and wage earners increased as the number of independent owners declined. And as we have seen, different techniques and new forms of farming appeared. The homogeneity of the golden age of New York agriculture was disappearing.

In spite of these evident changes, which every well-informed person and traveler could not help noticing, farming still held a prominent place in the economy of Central New York. Thousands of individuals made a comfortable living during the closing of the nineteenth century. Before considering modern aspects of farm life, let us peek for a while into the home and examine the life and behavior of the farmer in the 1850s. The road that led to his home might be one of the main highways laid down in the day of his father and grandfather; if so, it was well built and sufficient for the purposes demanded of it. A few stages might still speed by, though most travel and the transportation of goods now floated over the Erie Canal, its subsidiaries, or on the ribbons of steel that rapidly were connecting the entire country. Possibly, the home



might be situated on a side or back road; in that case it probably was of dirt, though county officials now and then helped to make them more passable, especially in the rainy seasons.

The home itself was generally set back some distance from the road and quite likely was surrounded by a stone or wood fence,



THE COLISEUM, NEW YORK STATE FAIR GROUNDS, SYRACUSE

or a hedge of some type. The immediate approach was most inviting. Tall stately trees dotted a green lawn which, regardless of size, was apt to have an attractive flower garden. Four o'clocks, lilies of the valley, asters and the like were in great abundance; even tomato plants might be found, though any farmer's son could tell you it was certain death to eat any of the luscious fruit. The house itself was probably built of wood, though many were of brick or stone. Most of these buildings were patterned after the New England or Dutch Colonial style, both of which were ideally adapted for farm life. Often, the house was a two-story affair, though well-to-do farmers went in for three stories. Where this was done,

simple pillars often graced the front, such as the Smith Homestead which for so many years stood a thing of beauty in quiet, little Peterboro. Glass windows, many of them of the small pane variety, were universally used, while the doorways possessed a charm that is rare today. Nearby was a well, often covered by lattice on which some vine or flower grew. And in the rear, or to one side, stood the barns and sheds.

Within the home itself there was an atmosphere of relative comfort and peace. Parlor, living room, dining room, kitchen and one or two bedrooms took up the first floor, from which a straight or winding stairway led to the chambers above. Often the winding stairway was of the wall type, and the hand rails of many were rich with inlaid woods of various designs and colors. The flooring generally was of broad hardwood though pine was used in many of the smaller homes. The house was heated by stoves and fireplaces, hence the many chimneys that adorned the shingled roof. As in the eighteenth century home, the fireplace was usually at one end of the room and frequently occupied a good share of the wall space. Builders, however, managed to leave room for chairs, love-nests, and tables—all of which was most inviting, especially on a cool afternoon or during the long winter evenings. Few families by this time did any cooking at the fireplace, its chief utility being that of heating and beautifying the room. In many instances these fireplaces had given way to the iron stove of Franklin type which in reality was a fireplace itself. The Franklin stove was a simple three-sided affair with iron plates, often decorated, with an open front. Its base spread out and served as a hearth. Many designs had legs. Numerous varieties existed and each manufacturer endeavored to increase his sales by introducing some new feature such as a hot air box in the rear or a system of ventilating drafts. Most of these stoves were wood burners though in some homes coal was used after the Civil War period. The use of coal naturally caused a change in the form and construction of the stove. The open front was closed though the burning coals might be seen through small chinks of isinglass that featured this stove. Often as not the top of the stove was flat with a movable part to permit feeding; coal might also be placed within from a swinging door on the front. Hardwood, and there was plenty of good maple, oak and beech on most every farm, was used in the open stoves



and fireplaces. Of course not every room was heated, though registers in the ceiling helped to warm the upstairs. In spite of all, the house was apt to be none too warm during winter; many rooms were shut up at this season, and on cold nights many people retired early to snuggle under warm blankets and to toast their feet against warming pans or hot bricks.



CANASAWACTA COUNTRY CLUB, NORWICH

In the kitchen closed stoves of various types were used. Some of these were little more than four-sided iron fireboxes raised a foot or more off the floor. The top of the stove had one or two lids and a flat surface for cooking. Others had a movable or fixed oven on top, and as time moved on numerous features were added, such as a water container and a bake oven where once the wood had been burned. In such cases the firebox was at the right or left side of the stove. Needless to say improved stoves provided increased variety in cooking, all of which must have delighted the nostrils of the young boys as they rushed in from school or as they groaned



under the weight of wood brought from an adjacent woodshed. The wood was piled in boxes by the side of the stove, and over this box and around or under the stove, shoes and wearing apparel might be left out to dry. During the winter, the kitchen often served as living room as the heat from its stove was far greater than an open fireplace or even a Franklin stove. Toward the close of the Civil War period, round stoves were introduced into many homes, schools and public buildings.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have automatic heaters never give a thought as to what would happen if the fire should go out. To our early settler that question was a most serious one—fires were not allowed to go out day or night. Occasionally, however, they did, and when that happened children were sent scurrying to a neighbor from whose home a live coal was obtained. Isolated farmers had recourse to a piece of flint. In transferring fire from one room to another, cotton or flax strings, soaked in sulphur, were used. Once paper became cheap and common, tapers made of the same were employed and continued to be used well down into the 1880s. Friction matches, though known before the War of 1812, were generally introduced in most homes by the 1830s and gradually replaced the older and less satisfactory methods of starting a fire. For illumination, tallow candles and small lamps, supplied with animal oil, were common until the 1850s when wood alcohol and kerosene came into use. Kerosene lamps became quite common by the 1880s and continued to be used throughout the balance of the century.

Sanitation was another problem that worried the first arrivals. Inside toilets were, of course, out of the question; such facilities as existed, therefore, had to be placed out of doors and yet not too far from the home. Most farmers understood that these should not be located where they came in contact with the source of drinking water, but every now and then stark illness overtook a family either through a lack of knowledge or as a result of some unforeseen difficulty. Little improvement took place in most homes throughout the century though, among the wealthier classes, septic devices and even running water were used, in which case toilets could be constructed within the home. Generally speaking, the inadequacy of sanitary devices did little to improve the health of the family which was beset by a number of ailments common to that

age. In every home, "chills and fevers," aided by tuberculosis, consumption, typhoid and other fevers and diseases took a toll as may be seen from an examination of the family Bible or cemetery. On top of this came other ailments such as heart trouble, hernia, tumor and the like. To combat these recourse was had to the family medicine chest which contained many different concoctions such as sulphur and molasses, senna, rhubarb, calomel and quinine. Mother generally supervised the administration of these remedies and, in addition, was ready to bleed a member of the family when needed. Nor did she hesitate to serve as mid-wife when the rural doctor was not available. During the earlier decades the knowledge possessed by these doctors was none too broad, and their medical cases were about the only drug stores for miles. And yet in spite of their shortcomings and limitations, these men did what they could to the best of their ability and many patients lived to sing the praises of their skill. Those who were in need of surgical work encountered tremendous difficulties, as operations for a long time were conducted without an anesthetic. By the middle of the century, however, conditions gradually took a turn for the better. Increased medical knowledge, better doctors and the introduction of new drugs did much to decrease the ravages of former years.

Our farmer's home was furnished in quite a simple manner. What there was, however, was most artistic and revealed a handicraft that today delights the eye of every antique collector. Chairs, rockers, tables, mantels and the like were fashioned from well-grained woods, often from trees on the farm, while on the floors home- and store-made rugs and carpets were thrown. Many of the well-to-do farmers had libraries of some size and value. Less than five years ago, for example, the library of Samuel H. Hatheway of Cortland County was placed on auction and the author found upon examination that it contained splendid editions of classical, religious, biographical and historical works. Taine's *French Revolution*, Michaud's *Crusades*, and Lord Macaulay's *History of England* may be cited as examples. Far more extensive was the library of Gerrit Smith of Peterboro; here political, anti-slavery, temperance and religious works existed by the hundreds. Less fortunate farmers also had their libraries which usually consisted of almanacs, reports and treatises on agriculture, religious writings and, of course, a large family Bible.



Most of the labor needed to maintain these homes, as well as to supply it with draperies, linens and the like, was done by the women members of the family, though the men and boys frequently were called upon to aid in the heavier work such as putting up and taking down the iron stoves. Servants, usually daughters of neighboring families, were not uncommon and in the homes of prosperous farmers a more pretentious staff was maintained. Gerrit Smith, for example, employed colored help on a large scale. Visitors to the latter's home found themselves surrounded by comforts that exceeded that of many city-dwellers. Even the average farmer had a substantial standard of living, and Europeans who journeyed through the Inland Empire marveled at the well-kept and attractive homes that dotted the countryside. Barns, sheds, extensive fields and broad pastures also attested to the prosperity of Central New York.

Nor did the farmers suffer for want of food or drink. To be sure, those who first came into this area were handicapped in many ways. The groceries, supplies and articles of luxury that they had been accustomed to in the past were to be had only on rare occasions. Necessity forced the housewife to depend upon what was at hand, and here it was that the Indian made his contribution. From him, she learned of new foods and of their proper preparation. Small fruits, such as the plum and huckleberry, were used in a number of different ways, and during the winter months the hungry family feasted upon fruits that had been dried and preserved. Refrigeration as we understand it just did not exist, and canning in glass containers was too expensive to be common. Cereals, of course, were in abundance at all times of the year and many varieties of bread, buns, puddings, pies and cakes were served. Meats and fish also were freely used though the winter pickled meat had definite disadvantages. Wild game was still available in practically every section of the country. All in all, it was a wholesome meal that the housewife placed before her family. Quantities and standards varied in respect to the income, but stark poverty was not to be found.

By the middle of the century the discomfort of the pioneer days was largely a thing of the past. Railroads, highways and canals brought in a steady stream of other articles and commodities which, together with local products, provided a more bountiful and varied



diet. Improved methods of cooking and the introduction of new stoves made the work easier and the results more beneficial. Granulated sugar, moreover, soon displaced loaf sugar, which only wealthy families had used on formal occasions, and the maple sugar, honey and molasses. For a time sorghum, introduced around 1855, competed with granulated sugar, but toward the close of the century most families were supplied with the latter. Ice boxes of a fashion came into use and before the end of our period were common in most homes. Many homes, however, continued to use wells and cool cellars for storing milk, butter and cheese.

In respect to drink, our early settlers were not always blessed with good wells and springs, though in general no one suffered from a want of water. Tea and coffee were luxuries in these early days though, as greater prosperity descended upon Central New York, these beverages became staples for most farmers. Milk, of course, was common at all times and cocoa was not unknown. Strong drink and hard cider, to say nothing of a potent domestic beer, were used in large quantities throughout the first half of the century. Locally made whiskey was cheap and plentiful, and choice wines and champagnes were on the tables and sideboards of the well-to-do. In all probability there was less drinking by the farmer class by 1870 but it was extensive enough to cause temperance advocates to redouble their efforts.

Most of this temperance work centered about the rural churches of which there were a large number. Usually they were located in the small hamlets or at an important cross road. The great majority of these churches were Protestant. The country preacher generally was an educated man of no mean ability, and was apt to be a graduate of a college like Hamilton or Colgate. His salary was low and his family did not enjoy the same economic standards possessed by the average farmer. His lot, however, was probably much better than that of the English clergy so brilliantly described by Lord Macaulay in his *History of England*. His ideals were high and he generally lived a strict moral life, saturated as he was with Calvinistic, Congregational and Unitarian thought. It was a positive religion of a living God that he preached and his long-winded sermons were filled with fine theological arguments that seem to have satisfied the spiritual yearnings of his listeners. At least we do not read of many who were asked to leave because of their

doctrinal dissertations. Differences as to matters of dogma, such as infant baptism, virgin birth and the trinity, frequently led to much local discussion and dissension. Often these battles became so protracted and were waged with such intensity that life-long friendships were severed. Soon irritated minds seceded from a mother church and established one of their own, and the community was definitely informed that salvation might only be had through the portals of this or that communion. On the other hand, with the exception of a few Unitarians and Episcopalians, the true "old-fashioned religion," loaded with much piety and generous portions of hell fire and brimstone won the constant and hearty applause of most communicants. And when death claimed some dear son or daughter, the bereaved parents calmly repeated what they had heard from their pastor, namely, that "through infinite mercy" they were able to see that "this affliction is full of kindness and benefit." Illness was generally described as "chastening from His hand."

The slavery issue was a constant source of trouble to the faithful throughout the country. Bibles were thumbed to find suitable arguments to justify or condemn human bondage, and as agents of the abolitionist societies entered the rural areas many churches shut their doors to these agitators. Did not the latter preach sedition and open rebellion against the powers that be? Did they not insult accepted opinion by advocating equal rights for women? Were not some of them saturated with the queer notions practiced by John Humphrey Noyes of Oneida County? And did not some of them declare that amusements and manual labor on the Sabbath, except during the hours of worship, constituted no violation of the Fourth Commandment? Hundreds of meetings were held and thousands of tracts were scattered in defense, or in condemnation, of these attitudes and practices. To illustrate, let us look at a meeting held at Peterboro's Baptist Church in 1848. Evidently, this was considered quite a significant gathering, for those of other faiths were invited to attend. During the course of the discussions that followed, some of the Baptists expressed surprise that the "Church of Peterboro" remained aloof. Gerrit Smith, who was present, proceeded to enlighten them. "Why should we descend," he said, "from the broad gospel platform, whereon is Christian liberty, to go into the narrow and soul-shrivelling enclosures of a sect?" He then charged some of the



Baptists "with the sins of voting for pro-slavery candidates for office, and with raising grain for distillers and brewers." "Who, for one moment," he declared, "believes that God . . . would have such a use made of ballot boxes and grain, as the great majority of the male members of the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches of this village make of one or both of them? We dare not so much as inquire whether He approves of this horribly guilty use. The bare inquiry is blasphemy."

Organized religion with its many churches—too many from an economic point of view—played an important rôle in the promotion of education. The log schoolhouses of pioneer days had become a thing of the past. In their place there appeared the familiar red schoolhouse, and as time went on brick and stone structures were erected. In most cases these buildings were but one-room affairs, fitted up with wooden benches and seats, profusely carved by the sharp knives of mischievous boys. Wooden floors distinctly showed the footwork of several generations. I recall hearing from one who attended such a school how the boys would fish for mice and rats through the holes in the floor, much to the consternation of the girls and bewilderment of the teacher. A small blackboard, a well-worn globe, a handful of books and a birch rod were the devices by means of which teachers sought to pound knowledge into the heads of the pupils. Simple, elementary subjects were taught by men and women teachers during terms that seldom lasted more than three months. Education was an important thing and farmers were willing to support it. At the same time, father needed his son in the fields, and mother wanted the daughter to help with sewing and cleaning; hence the short terms.

Close and intimate contacts developed among the teacher, pupil and parent. This was possible through the common practice of boarding and rooming the teacher at individual homes. Here he joined in the family life, ate at the same table, went to church and prayer meetings with the family, and often took off his coat and joined in the farm work. Many of the male teachers were divinity students and frequently were responsible for the sending of some boy to a preparatory school or college. Those who excelled at spelling bees, history lessons and the like often received from the teacher high praise and simple rewards in the form of pictures, books and, on occasion, small sums of money. Many a local rural



reader of the 1870s looked back with pleasure upon his life and associations in the old red schoolhouse. Well-to-do farmers of this period eagerly sponsored educational work and aided in sending of deserving young men and women to college. Yes, women, as by this time interest in women's education had reached a height where there were several schools of higher learning devoted to their interest. Finally, it should be observed that many children received special consideration in the form of private tutoring and instruction.

The schoolhouse was also a place for play and entertainment. Parties of various types were often held within the schoolroom, particularly during the winter terms, or in summer at a nearby grove. Outdoor games were popular among all classes regardless of the season, and the quilting and harvest bees were scenes of much merriment and fun. Considerable relaxation was also to be had at the tavern, though this form of amusement had its shortcomings which were not overlooked by the parson and his fellow reformers. Revival meetings, though conceived for religious purposes, had their lighter moments, as did the many political gatherings that were held from time to time. Church picnics, of course, provided no end of good-natured fun. Weddings, christenings and even funerals were other sources of amusement. Wandering entertainers and an occasional circus helped to round out the picture.

Organized play was not thought of, and many of the games played today, like golf, were things only to be read about in the teacher's encyclopedia. On the other hand, a form of baseball was played on many village greens and it was Gerrit Smith Miller of Peterboro who first gave football its modern aspects. Although we may smile at some of these pleasures, it must be admitted that the players played for the sake of play. Commercialized sports were absent in so far as the country was concerned. Grandstands, parking places and refreshment booths, so characteristic of life today, were conspicuous by their absence. Men, women and children sprawled on the ground to watch the contests of that age. It is impossible, of course, to say that their happiness was less or more than ours of today; such comparisons are hopeless and entirely misleading. We may be certain, however, that the rural inhabitants of the mid-nineteenth century thought their life crowded with happiness and good fun.

CHAPTER V  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT





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## CHAPTER V

### *Urban Development*

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ALTHOUGH Central New York, throughout most of the nineteenth century, was rural in nature, urban development did not lag far behind. Prior to the construction of the Erie Canal, its subsidiaries and the railroads, none of the present cities of this area were of great importance. In 1830, for example, Utica, the most outstanding community, had a population around eight thousand, though a decade later it had risen to over twelve thousand. As for Syracuse, the future capital of the Inland Empire, there were but twenty-five hundred and forty-one hundred inhabitants in 1830 and 1840, respectively. Even Auburn, with its fifty-six hundred persons in 1840, gave greater signs of vitality and growth than Syracuse. The appearance of the canals and railroads, plus certain economic advantages, stimulated city growth and development. Trade and commerce flowing over these arteries increased urban population, brought about a more diversified type of life, stimulated industrial development, and introduced new problems in government and social affairs. The construction of these canals and railroads also resulted in the appearance of an alien population, notably Irish and Germans, whose broad backs and strong arms dug Clinton's Big Ditch and laid the ties for the future New York Central. And yet in spite of the changes and transformations caused by these undertakings, the urban population in 1860 was still quite below that of the country. The combined figures for Syracuse, Utica, Auburn, Cortland, Ithaca, Rome, Oneida, and Norwich in that year amounted to but 81,650 out of a total of 393,787 for all of Central New York, or about one-fifth. Greater gains followed each decade until, by the close of the

century, these eight cities had 244,931 inhabitants, or about one-half of the population of the entire area. Trade, commerce and industrial developments largely account for this tremendous increase.

Before delving into the rise of the factory system and the building of mercantile and banking institutions, let us examine some of the other aspects of urban life. Turning to Syracuse, about which little was said in the previous volume, one finds its beginnings in the trails and camps of seventeenth and eighteenth century explorers and traders. After the Revolution came Ephraim Webster who in turn was followed by a Mr. Butler and a Mr. Hopkins. Early in the next century Calvin Jackson, James Geddes, Abraham Walton, and Henry Bogardus arrived, Geddes laying out a plot which became known as Walton's Tract. Walton broke up his holdings into village lots, part of which he sold to Bogardus who erected the first tavern. A sawmill and tannery soon followed. During these formative years this little settlement was often spoken of as "South Salina," though in 1806 it was called "Bogardus' Corners." Later it was known as "Cossit's Corners," then "Milan," and in 1817 "Corinth." Since there was already a postoffice by the name of Corinth in the State, this name had to be dropped, and on the suggestion of John Wilkinson, another early settler, it received its present title, Syracuse. Its population at that time must have been less than two hundred.

During the eighteen twenties, other families arrived, such as the Merrells, Coles, Blakes, Formans, Tealls and Demings. Henry Deming opened the first school, John Dunford the first newspaper, and John W. Hancett a drug store. Drs. Bassett, Swan, Colvin and Day attempted to keep the death rate low during the annual visitations of malarial fever, and most of the settlers worshipped at the Baptist, Presbyterian or Episcopal churches. Travelers rested at the Syracuse Hotel, later known as the Syracuse House, or the Mansion House, and it was at the latter that Judge Forman delighted his listeners with a proud address on the occasion of LaFayette's visit to the village in 1825. Far more important than Forman's address was the incorporation of Syracuse as a village in April, 1825, Forman becoming the first president and Dunford the first treasurer. Others who were prominent during the 1820s and 1830s included Ambrose Kasson, James Mann, Elias W. Leavenworth, Elisha Wallace, Joseph Slocum, Harvey



Baldwin, Hiram Putnam, Cornelius Longstreet, Richard Savage and Samuel Larned. Under the stimulation of the village fathers, the main streets were given a wooden pavement, sidewalks were



THE SAVINGS BANK OF UTICA, "THE BANK WITH THE GOLD DOME"  
(Courtesy The Savings Bank of Utica)

constructed, a park laid out, and a public market erected. By 1836, according to Gordon, the village had four churches, a court house, two newspapers, a high school, a "Syracuse Academy," some fifty different stores and shops, several splendid hotels, the Onondaga Bank, and a number of industries. Its population in 1830 was but 2565, though five years later it stood at 4103. During these years, and immediately thereafter, a large number of Irish and German families were attracted to Syracuse.



The eighteen forties witnessed additional growth and expansion in which the salt works played a most important rôle. New religious societies, such as the Church of the Messiah (Unitarian), St. John's Evangelical (German), St. Mary's (Roman Catholic), and the Society of Concord (Hebrew) were founded. Many imposing business blocks, like the Granger and Townsend, were erected, while visitors to the village found splendid accommodations at the Empire (Voorhees) House and the Globe Hotel. The Exchange Hotel, with its high gabled walls, offered the very best in food and drink. Enter the latter and one would find ample evidence of intellectual and artistic refinement, for here was the home of the Library and Reading Association. One of the best of New York City artists designed the Library Hall. His skill was well-shown by the nearly life-size figure of the Goddess of Liberty with "her scales of justice in one hand and in the other the staff on which the Stars and Stripes were unfurled in a most graceful manner." Close to this hotel was the Weiting Block and Opera House, and not far away was Cook's Coffee House where Hersey's whiskey sold for three cents a glass. Travelers on the Erie Canal most certainly had a wide choice.

Over the Canal slow-moving barges and express passenger packets passed on their way to Buffalo or Albany. Loud snorting engines pulled heavy trains through the village streets, while stages set out at regular intervals for Marcellus, Baldwinsville, and other neighboring centers. Residents of Syracuse were proud of their village's remarkable growth, which, though affected by the panic of 1837, speedily adjusted itself and progressed at almost a dizzy pace. Although the village had more than its share of dram shops, temperance advocates pushed their crusade with evident success, while others called attention to the evils of slavery, sabbath breaking, and a score of other so-called pressing problems. Syracuse soon acquired a national reputation for its reforming activities and great stress was placed upon its tolerance in respect to free speech and assembly.

As the village grew, many citizens realized the need of territorial and political expansion, and after some agitation convinced the inhabitants of neighboring Salina of the wisdom of joint coöperation in the future. As a result a merger was effected between the two villages, and in December, 1847, Syracuse was

incorporated as a city with a population of nearly twenty thousand. Certain sections of Geddes were annexed at a later date, as was the village of Danforth. Harvey Baldwin was the first Mayor of Syracuse and was followed during the remainder of the century by such well-known men as Elias W. Leavenworth, Dennis McCarthy, Charles F. Williston, Daniel Bookstaver, Charles P. Clark, Francis Hendricks, William B. Kirk and William Cowie. Under their administrations great strides were made in improving city government and in extending services to the citizens.

During the 1850s the city's growth, while slow, was quite solid, there being but twenty-eight thousand inhabitants on the eve of the Civil War. The strategic location of the city, on the main line of the future New York Central with an important port on the Erie Canal, plus the rich salt deposits, could not be denied, and by 1870 over forty-three thousand people lived within Syracuse. Sixteen newspapers, some of which were weekly and of a religious nature, informed the public of local and national happenings, and nine banks, such as the Onondaga Deposit and Trust Company, promoted savings and financed industrial and mercantile activities. Large quantities of steel and iron goods were produced, building materials manufactured, pianos, organs and melodeons made, while the clothing and brewing trades were extremely active. Thirty miles of pipes brought gas for cooking and illumination to many parts of the city. The water supply, also piped, was chiefly from springs, though steps were being taken to tap Onondaga Creek. Numerous public buildings, such as the City Hall, Court House, the High School and several hospitals added to the importance of the city, while out on the southeast edge there stood the young but promising education institution—Syracuse University, which did so much to enhance the intellectual life of the city during the closing years of the nineteenth century.

During the last two decades of that century the city grew by leaps and bounds, and by 1900 with a population of over one hundred and eight thousand, it was justly entitled to the position of being the capital of the Inland Empire. Clinton Square was gradually transformed from a cobbled and littered public market, with its ever present barrels of salt waiting for transportation, into a stately park. Hanover Square, moreover, was graced by a small plot known as Veterans' Park in 1899. Numerous buildings



rose here and there, such as Dey's Department Store, the Robert Gere Bank Building, the Warner and Hogan blocks, while the old Granger block was heightened and made into the Sedgwick, Andrews and Kennedy building. Numerous street cars crossed the city at many points, paved streets increased in number, gas, water and telephone lines were laid, and a host of new industrial and mercantile establishments came into being. Among the latter mention might be made of the Solvay Process Company, located at Solvay, the Church and Dwight saleratus factory, the E. W. Edwards and Son, and the Bacon and Chappell Department stores, the clothing firm of W. S. Peck, and the Syracuse Hardware and Iron Company. Within a short distance of Syracuse there were a number of small villages which helped to increase the importance of the metropolitan area. There was Eastwood, for example, incorporated in 1895, and connected with Syracuse by a trolley line. Nearby were Jamesville, Fayetteville and Geddes, whose first president, Frederick R. Hazard, was the head of the Solvay Process Works. A little to the north was historic Baldwinsville, rapidly becoming a suburb of Syracuse, while to the east was Manlius, the home of the Manlius Military School. Then there was Liverpool, with its willow industry, and to the west were Marcellus and Camillus, while further away were other centers whose economic and political life was bound up with that of Syracuse.

South and somewhat to the west of Syracuse is the city of Ithaca, which during the first two decades of the nineteenth century was little more than an agricultural center within the town of Ulysses. Even as late as 1818, according to a map in the county clerk's office, there were but 611 inhabitants within this community, though by 1830 there were 3040. During these years, Ithaca grew slowly but solidly. Industrially, there was little activity outside of a woolen mill, several tanneries, and the usual grist mills and breweries. Nearby farmers, however, found it a most excellent place to dispose of their surplus products and to purchase needed tools, clothing and other supplies. Hazard's New Store was the emporium in those days; it was located opposite the old Eagle Tavern. More important than the latter was the Clinton Hotel, built of brick between 1829 and 1832, and described by its admirers as the "finest hotel west of Albany." Gordon, writing in 1832, gave much attention to this structure which he reports as being



ninety feet in height, and having one hundred and fifty rooms, offices, halls and bathrooms. The main portico was sustained by six handsome Ionic columns.

Gordon also speaks of a bank, evidently the Bank of Ithaca, which was chartered in 1829; somewhat earlier there had been a branch of the Bank of Newburgh. In addition, the village had five Protestant churches, a court house, a co-educational academy, a lyceum and a Methodist Theological and Historical Library Association founded in 1821. A few years later, the Ithaca Methodist Library Association and the New Jerusalem Church Library were established. Nor was the drama neglected, as plays were occasionally given at the Assembly Room of the Columbian Inn. Finally, and most significant for the economic growth of Ithaca, reference should be made to the Ithaca and Owego Railroad, and to the construction of a canal that connected Cayuga Lake with the Erie Canal. Under the stimulus of these improvements, Ithaca forged ahead only to be roughly treated by the depression of 1837. Public spirited Ithacans witnessed a rapid decline in the fortunes of their village and all but despaired of the future.

Nor did any great improvement take place until after the close of the Civil War. During these years Ithaca suffered in a number of ways. Land speculators lost heavily; there was a shortage of specie and the village was flooded with worthless bank notes. Canal traffic declined and the once active docks became silent. Although the panic of 1837 was the immediate occasion for this upset, the basic forces that led to this decline are to be found in the failure of the Ithaca and Owego Railroad, and to the construction of other lines than ran east and west without touching at Ithaca. Some notion of the effect of these forces may be seen in the population figures of the village. In 1835 there were nearly four thousand persons dwelling within Ithaca, but in 1865—thirty years later—there were only a thousand more. In spite of these misfortunes, some progress was registered. Joseph Eddy's tannery, begun in 1822, continued to operate and expand, the Tabor boat-yards maintained a respectable business, the Beebe grist mill survived until 1840 when it was sold to the Ithaca Woolen Mills Company, and the Fall Creek Mining Company appeared. In place of the Bank of Ithaca, which expired in 1850, there were started the Tompkins County Bank, chartered in 1836, and the Merchants

and Farmers Bank which opened its doors in 1838. In 1854 the Ithaca Waterworks began operation, and in the same year a new county court house and jail were built to supplant the old structures erected in 1817. Several new schools and churches were also constructed.



MAIN STREET LOOKING SOUTH, CORTLAND

Following the period of "doldrums," as one writer has characterized these years, Ithaca slowly showed signs of new life and vigor. In the field of industry the clock business, which had started in the 1850s, developed under the management of the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company, which also did an active business in the manufacture of organs. The Ithaca and Washington Glass Companies likewise added to the village's growth. Reference should also be made to the Ithaca Agricultural Works which supplied neighboring farmers with tools and implements of varied types, the Phoenix Iron Works, Reynold's Machine Shop, and the Ithaca Gun Works. Transportation was improved by the construction of new railroads, such as the



Ithaca and Cortland, and by the appearance of new passenger and freight boats on Cayuga Lake. Along intellectual lines, Ithaca's schools showed great improvement, and it was during this period that Cornell University was established. Gas, electricity and telephones were introduced after the 1870s and improved water supplies were obtained. Several new banks and newspapers also made their appearance before 1880 in which year Ithaca had a population of over nine thousand.

During the next two decades further advancement was witnessed, the population at the turn of the century being over thirteen thousand. City government began in 1888 under Mayor B. Stewart who was followed by John Barden, Henry St. John, Clinton D. Boulton, Leroy G. Todd, John B. Lang and William C. Elmendorf. Under their administrations many improvements took place such as the paving of streets, the installation of electric lighting and trolley cars, the construction of new sewers, and the like. Nor were educational matters ignored. Probably one of the most significant things during this period was the rapid growth and expansion of Cornell University, concerning which more will be said in a later chapter. All in all, Ithaca, by the close of the nineteenth century had become a prosperous and active city. The "doldrums" of the past were forgotten and its citizens faced the future with splendid confidence and hope.

In the meantime, Utica, which once had been the heart of Central New York, likewise grew in size and importance. Incorporated as a village in 1798, Utica was set off from Whitestown in 1817. This latter step was amply justified when one recalls the progress that had been made since 1800. Not only had the village increased in population, but it hummed with greater industrial and civic pride. New churches, schools, paved streets, and an alert board of village officials—all attested to the growing importance of this community. Among its citizens were Colonel William Williams, prominent bookseller and publisher, George B. Wilson, destined to be a noted Presbyterian minister, Samuel A. Talcott, later Attorney General of the State, Samuel M. Todd, local educator, Oliver Harris, chairmaker and village trustees like Abraham Van Santvoord, Augustus Hickox, Gurdeon Burchard, Jason Parker and William Geer.



During the next fifteen years additional progress took place, the population jumping from 2972 in 1820 to 8323 in 1830. Judge Nathan Williams was President of the village from 1817 to 1820 and was followed by Rudolph Snyder, Ezra S. Cozier, William Clarke and others. Assisting these gentlemen in the conduct of government were such well-known men as Erastus Clark, Jeremiah Van Ransselaer, John E. Hinman, James Hooker, Benjamin Ballou and Daniel Stafford. Under their direction numerous ordinances were passed providing for the paving of more streets, maintaining adequate police and fire departments, sanitation measures, water supply and a score of other civic improvements. Educational matters also received close and careful consideration and the Utica Academy, under such preceptors as Rev. Samuel T. Mills, became a recognized institution of learning. Literary, Bible, missionary and tract societies aided in the intellectual and social life of the community as did an active county agricultural society, whose offices were at Utica. Industrial activities were prominent in the form of mills, tanneries, shops and banking houses. Prominent among those who lived at that time in Utica were Theodore S. Gold, dry goods merchant, Henry Seymour, once an assemblyman from Onondaga, Spencer Kellogg, leading merchant, James Lynch, a founder of St. John's Church, Samuel Beardsley, active at Albany and Washington, Benjamin F. Cooper and James Sayles, director of the United States Branch Bank.

Thanks to the efforts of these, and others too numerous to mention, plus the influence of the Erie Canal, Utica grew steadily in size and importance, and in February, 1832, they saw their labors rewarded by the passage of a bill at Albany incorporating their community as a city. Writing a few years later, Gordon refers to Utica in glowing terms. Situated on the Erie Canal, packet boats plied daily east and west, while "commodious stages," owned by Jason Parker and John Butterfield, journeyed to many parts of the State. Fifteen churches, many of them being "large and costly," numerous religious and moral societies, prosperous schools and libraries, and a Young Men's Association graced the social, religious and cultural life of the city. To its portals came many a reformer hoping to spread the gospel, temperance and anti-slavery movements. Among those who labored in the latter field were Alvan Stewart and Beriah Green of Florence. Several news-

papers provided the citizens with the latest news of these agitators as well as of the political controversies waged at Albany and Washington, while banks like the Bank of Utica and Savings Bank showed the financial strength of the community. And all this in spite of the frequent ravages of dread cholera. In 1832, for example, this plague struck Utica with sudden savagery. Within two months close to seventy persons were struck down, business was all but suspended and about one-third of the population fled for safety into the country.

About the same time steps were undertaken to construct the Chenango Canal which resulted in the promotion of trade and commerce. In this respect it is worth noting that coal was brought up this canal by 1836, most of which was used in the manufacture of steam power for Utica's factories. In that same year, the Utica and Schenectady Railroad was completed with Nicholas Devereaux of Utica as one of its directors. Three years later Utica was connected by rail with Syracuse. Between the construction of these two roads came the panic of 1837 and right in the very center of this disaster, which hit Utica with some force, the Savings Bank of Utica was chartered. Among the officers of this bank were Joseph Kirkland, one time Mayor of Utica, Judge John Savage, Thomas H. Hubbard, former clerk of the State Supreme Court, Silas D. Childs, John H. Ostrom, later mayor, Joshua M. Church and others.

Later, in 1872, Franklin B. Hough, author of another gazetteer, devoted all of two pages to Utica. After referring to the city's importance as a railroad center and as a port on the Erie Canal, Hough invited his readers' attention to the numerous public buildings, such as the Court House, City Hall, State Lunatic Asylum, the various academies, the Orphan Asylum, Art Association and a number of other imposing buildings. At that time, according to Hough, there were eleven newspapers, daily and weekly, one of which was in German and two for the Welsh inhabitants of the city and county. Utica's population in 1870 amounted to 28,804; a decade later it was over thirty-three thousand and at the close of the century stood at 56,383, making it the second largest city in Central New York. Always an alert and progressive community, Utica quickly adopted the many changes in life that took place throughout the country in the late nineteenth century. Gas, which



had been introduced much earlier, was followed by the introduction of electricity, and telephone service connected Utica with communities fifteen miles away. The business section of the city hummed with activity while scattered here and there were prosperous and flourishing industries such as the Utica Knitting Company, founded in 1889. Among its leading citizens since 1870 mention might be made of Roscoe Conkling, prominent in politics, Joseph H. Kent, James K. O'Connor and C. Haley—all three assemblymen—and Samuel Lowery, senator.

Some of the neighboring centers actually within the orbit of Utica's economy and life were Whitesboro and New Hartford, part of the latter being annexed in 1862. Street railroads ran from Utica to New Hartford and other adjacent villages. Nine miles to the south was Clinton, the home of Hamilton College, and nearby were Yorkville, New York Mills and Oriskany, the first two ultimately becoming an integral part of Utica. And fifteen miles away was the historic and prosperous city of Rome. Incorporated as a village in 1819, Rome rapidly became the second ranking community in Oneida County. By the 1830s it had five churches, all Protestant, an academy, several fine public buildings, a United States Arsenal, several important woolen and cotton mills, and a number of shops, stores and fine homes. Moreover, a savings bank was chartered in 1832 with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. All in all, there were over three hundred buildings in Rome whose population at that time must have been around twelve hundred. During the decades that followed the village grew steadily, thanks to its railroad and canal facilities. To illustrate, in 1844, the canal between Rome and Utica was rerouted through the former so as to give it a rightful place. Later, the Black River Canal joined the Erie at Rome and this added much to the commercial life of Rome. Moreover, during the 1850s the first cheese factory in America was opened at Rome which, by the close of the Civil War, was the largest cheese producing market in the entire world.

In the field of industry, Rome soon made a name for itself. Rolling mills, steel works, railroad shops, foundries, breweries, soap factories and planing mills dotted the limits of the community. Prominent among these industries was the brass and copper trade, started by Paul Revere shortly after the American Revolution. On the basis of this humble beginning tremendous strides were made



in the years that followed until Rome became known as the "Copper City." J. S. Haselton is often spoken of as the father of Rome's brass and copper works, about which more will be related in a subsequent chapter. The principal buildings in the 1850s included the American, Northern and Railroad Hotels, Stanwix Hall, Tremont House, Willett House, Seymour House, the Court House and Jail. In addition there were in the neighborhood of some five hundred residences of which that owned by Edward Huntington was of considerable grace and beauty. The presidents of Rome between 1850 and 1870 included men like Alanson Bennett, B. J. Beach, George Barnard, Edwin L. Stevens, Marquis Kenyon and others.

By 1870, the date of Rome's incorporation as a city, the population was over thirty-five hundred, many of whom were loyal members of the city's thirteen churches of which three were Roman Catholic. Three national banks, like the Stanwix National and the Central National, and two savings banks were then in operation while the *Roman Citizen*, *Rome Sentinel*, *Rising Sun*, and *Rome Reformer* supplied the people with news. During the decade that followed the growth of the city was somewhat retarded though by 1900 it had over fifteen thousand inhabitants. Among its early mayors were Calvert Comstock, George Merrill, Samuel B. Stevens, Samuel Jillett and Frederick E. Mitchell. In addition to its brass and copper works mention might be made of the New York Locomotive Works established in 1881 and the Rome Merchant Iron Mill. Prominent among its citizens during the century were Messrs. Sandford, Carr, Beers, Kessinger and Tower, printers and newspaper men, S. R. Brown, one time principal of the Rome Academy, W. D. Munro, superintendent of schools, Henry Huntington, banker and merchant, Daniel E. Wager, active in the Oneida Historical Society, J. S. Haselton of the copper industry, Henry A. Foster, State Senator, R. B. Doxtater, President of the Rome Exchange Bank, and ministers like the Revs. Haynes, Nash, Waters, Whipple and Irwin.

Not far from Rome is the city of Oneida, which had a population of over three thousand in 1870; thirty years later it was twice that size. Oneida, incorporated as a village in 1848, was originally known as "Oneida Depot," because it was a station on the Syracuse and Utica Railroad. This was in 1839 when a track was

cut through the forest and a hotel, the Railroad House, was erected. Henry Y. Stewart was the proprietor of this inn. The first dwelling was constructed by Charles R. Stewart, and S. H. Goodwin was the owner of the first store of any importance. Others who settled about this time or a little later were Nelson and Ira Morris, who erected the Eagle Hotel, Ambrose Hill, grocerman, Grove Stoddard, clothier, R. N. Van Evra, owner of several shops, R. I. Stewart, proprietor of a drug store, and Theodore C. Thompson. Among the early lawyers reference should be made of Isaac N. Messinger, J. C. Sloan, M. J. Schoolcraft, James B. Jenkins, W. W. Goodell and Josiah E. Ferry. Financial interests were represented by N. Higginbotham, Samuel Breese and T. F. Hand, chief officers of the Oneida Valley Bank organized in 1851. The First National Bank of Oneida was formed in 1864, its first directors including men like Horace Devereaux, James J. Stewart, Samuel H. Fox and Christopher A. Walrath. The Oneida Savings Bank, founded in 1866, had among its officers, Milton Barnett, James A. Bennett, E. C. Saunders and George Berry. James D. Kilburn and W. E. Northrup opened in 1871 a private bank. Early physicians included Edward Perkins and Ogden Randall.

In the meantime a group of individuals established in 1857 the Oneida Seminary whose teachers included such men as Revs. G. H. Whitney, E. Rollo, Charles E. Swift and J. D. Houghton. This institution was under the general control of the Presbyterian Synod of Utica. Fraternal organizations were represented by the Oneida Lodge No. 270 of Free Masons, Doric Chapter R.A.M., a lodge of the Odd Fellows, a chapter of the Good Templars, and a lodge of the Good Samaritans and Daughters of Rebecca. In addition, by 1870, there were five Protestant and one Roman Catholic churches. Industrially, Oneida had a thriving tannery owned by George Berry, several lumber yards, and a sash and blind factory. The Federal Census of 1870 showed over thirty-two hundred inhabitants within Oneida. A decade later there were close to four thousand and in 1900 the village had over sixty-three hundred inhabitants. In 1901 it was incorporated as a city. Among its village presidents were Horace Devereaux, G. P. Soper, James N. Bates, William M. Baker and Barney Ratmour. The newspapers of Oneida have been the *Oneida Telegraph* begun in 1851 and changed to the *Oneida Sachem* in 1854; as such it continued



to operate until 1863 when it became the *Oneida Dispatch*. In addition there were the *Democratic Union* and the *Circular*. Prominent men since 1870 include W. H. Dimmick, David Walker, Judson W. Warner, Daniel Dorrance, President of the Oneida Savings Bank, and Will Chappell of the National Casket Company. Close to Oneida is the famous Oneida Community, founded in 1848 by John H. Noyes. During most of the nineteenth century this community specialized in agricultural activities and in the manufacturing of traps; later, it devoted itself to the well known Community Silver concerning which comment will appear later.

Southeast of Oneida City, and in Chenango County, is Norwich, incorporated as a village in 1816. According to Spafford this community had some five hundred inhabitants by the War of 1812, including men like James Birdsall, Peter B. Garnsey, Joseph S. Fenton, Dr. Jonathan Johnson and Nathaniel Chamberlain. The Bank of Chenango was formed here in 1818, Ebenezer Wakeley, Joseph S. Fenton, John Randall, Uri Tracy and others being the first directors. Writing in 1836, Gordon described Norwich as a shire village, finely situated on the Chenango Canal, and surrounded by a very fertile country. It had a court house, jail, four Protestant churches, an academy, a school for girls, two newspapers, several shops and a few small factories. Probably it had a population of about a thousand as Gordon mentions some two hundred and fifty dwellings in the village at that time. Hough, writing at a later date, speaks of seven churches, an academy, the Bank of Norwich, the *Chenango Telegraph*, the *Chenango Union*, a piano factory, several mills and other shops. Its chief hotel was the Eagle Tavern. Located on the New York and Oswego Midland Railroad, and the D. L. & W., Norwich in 1870 had a population of over four thousand. By this time gas and water works were in the village. Since 1870 Norwich had become the center of Chenango's dairying industry and milk business, and it was here that Gail Borden, the inventor of condensed milk, was born. Other activities were represented by the Hammer Factory of David Maydole, and the Norwich Sash and Blind Factory.

Although Norwich did not become a city until 1915, its population grew steadily during the closing decades of the nineteenth century. By 1900 it had close to six thousand inhabitants. Among its honored citizens during the last century were Daniel



Palmer and Ansel Berry, assemblymen; Drs. Andrew Baker and George W. Palmer; Philander B. Prindle, for many years clerk of the assembly at Albany; attorneys, Samuel S. Randall and Calvin L. Tefft; principal of the Norwich Academy, Benjamin F. Taylor and Purdy Smith, United States Congressman. Presidents of the village have included Abner W. Warner, Alfred Purdy, David Maydole, William Breese and Daniel Holmes.

Situated in the valley of the Tioughnioga is the city of Cortland, about three miles away from its twin sister, Homer. Cortland's history prior to 1853 was identified with the town of Cortland. By 1835 the population of this town was close to four thousand of which less than a fourth may have lived in the center which was incorporated as a village in 1853. During these years the village grew very slowly, there being only fifteen hundred inhabitants at the time of incorporation. It contained a court house and prison, four Protestant churches, several hotels or inns, two newspapers, one being the *Cortland Republican* founded in 1817, and a number of small shops and stores. Basically, it was little more than the county seat and the center of neighboring agricultural activities. The Randall Bank, begun in 1853, had as its chief officers, William R. Randall and Jonathan Hubbard. Nearby was the large and extensive hardware store of S. D. Freer. James Van Valen, J. D. Schermerhorn, James S. Squires and J. A. Graham were active in the butter business. The construction of railroads through this village did much to promote its development. Interesting in the history of this village is the Cortland Academy, chartered in 1819, Dr. Lewis S. Owen, John Miller, N. R. Smith, David Jones, John Osborn and others being the first trustees. The first principal was Oren Catlin who was followed by such men as Noble D. Strong, S. W. Clark, Charles Avery and Samuel B. Woolworth. More will be said about this deserving institution in another chapter.

By 1870 Cortland, with its paved streets, public gas and water works, had a population of over three thousand, many of whom were connected in one way or another with the Normal School which opened in the spring of 1869. At this time the village had eight churches, three newspapers, the *Cortland County Standard*, the *Cortland County Journal*, and the *Cortland County Democrat*. These papers were originally under the control of Francis G. Kinney,

W. H. Livermore and Benton B. Jones, respectively. In addition there were the First National, and the Cortland County Savings banks. A considerable amount of manufacturing was engaged in, of which the tannery of William Elder and the distillery of William Mallory were important. During the remainder of the century, Cortland increased in size and importance, there being over nine thousand people living there in 1900. Among its manufactures at that time reference should be made to the Wickwire Brothers, makers of wire and steel products.

Cortland was incorporated as a city in 1853 and has become the center for activities at Homer and McGrawville. Among its village presidents were Joseph Reynolds, D. E. Smith, W. H. Crane, Henry Brewer and W. D. Tisdale. William Bartlit, John H. Knapp, Dr. John Miller and others have served at Albany. William Mallory, one of Cortland's most prominent citizens, was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Henry S. Randall, Superintendent of Public Schools in 1843, was Secretary of State in 1852. Although Cortland was not an unimportant center in the nineteenth century, its greatest rise and development have taken place since 1900.

Last among the cities of Central New York is Auburn, the county seat of Cayuga County. Reference as to the genesis of this community has already been made in the previous volume. Incorporated as a village in 1815, it soon became one of the most thriving, promising and beautiful villages of the State. By 1830 it had a population of close to forty-five hundred persons, most of whom found employment in the glass factories, flour mills, cabinet works, shoe manufactures, leather shops, carriage works, threshing machine concerns, and a number of other activities. In the financial world, Auburn was ably represented by several banks including the Cayuga National Bank and the Bank of Auburn, incorporated in 1833 and 1817, respectively, while travelers to the village were well housed and cared for by the proprietors of the American and Exchange Hotels. Five splendid churches, four alert newspapers, an attractive museum, several outstanding public schools and a number of legal and professional offices helped to add to the importance of Auburn. Then there was Auburn College, founded in 1836, and the Theological Seminary, under the control of the Presbyterian Synod of Geneva. Concerning both of these splendid



institutions more will be said presently. Finally, there was the State Prison, established in 1816, whose story will be told in another chapter.

Between 1830 and 1870 Auburn grew at a steady rate, its population increasing from 4486 to 17,225. It was incorporated as a city in 1848 and annexed a part of Aurelius in 1869 and a portion of Sennett in 1871. According to the Federal Census of 1870, Auburn had four manufacturing concerns devoted to the making of reapers and mowers, the most notable being the D. M. Osborne Company founded in 1858. In addition there were factories producing woolens, carpets, tools, carriages, axles, iron goods, machinery and a number of other commodities. Some 2500 persons found employment in these concerns. Among these industries mention should be made of the Auburn Paper Mills, the Auburn Manufacturing Company, organized in 1867 with Charles Wood as president, and the Empire Wringer Company, organized in 1872 by C. M. Howlet. The city was supplied with water pumped from Owasco Outlet, although many homes continued to depend upon local wells and springs. Gas, to the extent of over twelve million cubic feet, was annually consumed by the citizens of Auburn who were amply provided with newspapers such as the *Auburn Daily Advertiser* and the *Auburn Weekly Democrat*. Situated on the "Auburn" branch of the New York Central, and on the main line of the Southern Central, Auburn had splendid rail connections. Among its mayors, who did so much for the advancement of city life during these years, were Cyrus C. Dennis, Daniel Hewson, David M. Osborne, Aurelian Conklin, L. L. Briggs and Theodore M. Pomeroy.

During the last three decades of the nineteenth century, Auburn rapidly became the third leading city in Central New York. Paved streets, trolley cars, electricity and telephone connections, and a number of most attractive business blocks and public buildings attested to its growth in the past and gave promise of greater things in the years to come. By 1880 its population was over twenty thousand, and at the turn of the century the census showed 30,345 persons within Auburn's limits, of whom one-fourth were of foreign birth. Industrially, Auburn had become a center for many different factories producing, among other things, shoes and reapers in large quantities. Present day visitors may still see many



of the splendid homes that once graced this nineteenth century city, homes that once housed such nationally known men as William H. Seward and Edwin B. Morgan. Others who brought renown to Auburn during the last half of the century were George Rathburn, United States Representative, William W. Payne, William P. Robinson, Assemblymen, and Rev. Willis J. Beecher, President of the Theological Seminary from 1871 to 1908.



CHAPTER VI  
THE ADVENT OF THE FACTORY SYSTEM





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## CHAPTER VI

### *The Advent of the Factory System*

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URBAN development in Central New York, as well as elsewhere, fundamentally depended upon the presence of several major factors. Among these none were more important than the possession of or availability to natural resources, location, and easy access to markets. Labor and capital likewise were needed. All of these factors, and others equally important, manifested themselves during the early decades of the nineteenth century and thus paved the way for the rise of urban centers like Auburn, Syracuse and Utica. In most of these communities manufacturing of a sort had begun at an early date, though it was not until after the close of the War of 1812 that anything like the modern factory made its appearance in the Inland Empire.

Among the many articles produced at that time none was more outstanding than that of woolen cloth. Reference to the extensive quantities of woolen cloth made in Central New York prior to 1815 was noted in the previous volume. During the next fifteen years even greater quantities were manufactured, most of it woven within the homes of humble artisans. When Gordon, in his *Gazetteer*, published in 1836, mentions the production of nearly a million yards of woolen cloth one may be certain that most of it was of household production. Chenango then led all the seven counties with more than 170,000 yards a year, Cayuga, Oneida and Onondaga produced around 150,000 yards each, Tompkins, 131,000, and Cortland about 100,000. Madison also produced large quantities. In all probability this marked the high tide of domestic production as factories soon gained the supremacy, though thousands of yards continued to be made at home down to and

after the Civil War. So-called woolen factories were noted by Spafford in his tours throughout Central New York prior to 1815, but the ill effects of the war then going on with Great Britain appear to have dealt these infant industries a severe blow. An upward trend, however, followed within a few years after peace and, by 1830, there were a number of woolen factories in operation. Probably the largest, throughout the State in 1831, was the Oriskany Manufacturing Company whose 147 hands received annually over eighteen thousand dollars in wages. The value of the wool used by this concern amounted to over eighty-three thousand dollars and, when made into cloth, was worth over one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. By 1835 there were forty-five woolen mills in Central New York, thirteen of which were in Oneida, four at Utica and three at Vernon. Onondaga had ten factories, four at Skaneateles and two each at Pompey and Marcellus. Madison had seven mills, four of them located in the town of Eaton; Cayuga had four, three being at Auburn; and Chenango and Cortland had four each. In Tompkins there were three woolen factories. These figures do not include the fulling mills, of which there were many.

Five years later even greater strides had been made, there being thirty-three mills alone in Oneida, with a capital investment of over \$243,000, and employing some 371 hands. Madison, at the same time, had ten mills, and both counties in addition had together sixty-six fulling factories. Mills were also present in the other counties. By 1855, however, a decided drop had taken place, the State census of that year showing but thirty-eight factories in all of Central New York; thirteen of these being centered within Oneida. One of the largest of these concerns was the Utica Globe Mills Company. Many factors conspired to bring about this decline, though none was probably more important than the decrease that had taken place in sheep raising throughout Central New York.

In the meantime, cotton factories, which had made their appearance before 1815, continued to increase in number and output. Walcott's mill, employing power looms at Whitestown, was one of the most outstanding. In due time Walcott sold out his interests to Benjamin Marshall, who continued to operate these mills under the name of the "New York Mills." The quality and texture of the fabrics produced in Marshall's factories in 1828 were said



to be the very best in the entire country. By 1835 there were twenty-three cotton mills operating within the Inland Empire, fourteen of them being located within Oneida, chiefly at New Hartford, Paris and Whitestown. In Onondaga all three were at Manlius, while the two assigned to Madison were in the town of



SOUTH SALINA STREET LOOKING NORTH FROM ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE

Eaton. Cayuga, Chenango and Tompkins together had four factories; there were none in Cortland, according to Gordon. Among the mills operating in 1850 one of the most important was the Utica Steam Cotton Mills manufacturing approximately 1,200,000 yards a year. Its first directors were Alfred Munson, S. D. Childs, T. S. Faxton, William Walcott, Horatio Seymour and others. The New York Mills at New Hartford and Whites-town, and the firms of Hungerford and Ruger and Brownell and Son, both at Paris, also should be mentioned.

Oneida was also the center of a small silk industry prior to 1860 though at no time did it ever become an important activity.

Samuel Chidsey of Scipio, Cayuga County, is credited with having introduced the culture of silk worms; it is reported that during the War of 1812 he made and sold 600 pounds of silk. The industry never developed in Cayuga though among the farmers of Oneida it became an important by-product. By 1850, however, it was evident that while cocoons could be grown, the hazards incident to the same were so great that little profit could be assured. Moreover, the development of silk manufactures in New York City created serious competition. And so the silk industry in Central New York tended to decline. Neither Gordon nor Hough mention it in their gazetteers. Among the other industries present by the middle of the century was that of hemp manufacturing which centered chiefly within Chenango. In the clothing industry there were several plants operating at Syracuse, Utica and Auburn, as well as a number of shops that turned out agricultural implements, carpets, hats, boots and shoes. Tanneries, breweries, carpenter shops, foundries likewise existed throughout Central New York. Finally, there was the salt industry which was such a boom to Syracuse. According to the Federal Census of 1850 the counties of Central New York showed the following:

	Capital	Hands	Value of Annual Products
Cayuga .....	\$1,845,527	2,969	\$3,227,470
Chenango .....	682,245	1,326	1,143,110
Cortland .....	286,905	521	562,414
Madison .....	1,069,995	1,553	1,963,423
Oneida .....	4,447,145	7,834	8,058,366
Onondaga .....	3,342,375	6,294	6,907,220
Tompkins .....	913,585	1,452	1,846,138

During the decades that followed, tremendous advances took place in all of the counties though those with urban centers, like Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga were by far the most important. In 1870 there were 473 manufacturing establishments in Cayuga with a capital investment of \$5,152,779. Steam and water power were used in these plants which employed over four thousand hands, most of whom were males above sixteen years of age. The annual average wages received amounted to \$1,440,123 (\$351 per person), and the value of the products produced came to \$7,378,333. In the same year, Oneida had 1,075 concerns with a capital outlay



of \$11,508,438; 125 steam engines and 390 water works kept these factories going and provided employment for 11,175 persons, nearly eight thousand of whom were males over sixteen years of age; the remainder consisting chiefly of females over fifteen. The amount of wages paid out each year averaged over three and a half million dollars (\$323 per person) and the value of products produced averaged over eighteen millions. In Onondaga, at the same time, \$19,712,339 worth of goods were manufactured by some 9682 hands, most of them males over sixteen. Their wages equalled \$3,666,686 (\$378 per person), and the capital investment was close to eleven million. The total number of establishments within that county were 1215.

Chenango, according to the Federal Census of 1870, had 469 establishments with a capital investment of \$1,277,766. A total of 1545 hands, whose annual wages averaged \$320,371 (\$207 per person) produced goods worth \$2,237,804. Cortland had 264 establishments valued at \$978,600, producing goods worth \$1,642,631. The average annual wages received by the 977 hands employed in these plants amounted to \$253,314 (\$259 per person). Madison had 736 plants, valued at \$2,149,286, manufacturing \$4,798,371 worth of products. Average annual wages equalled \$592,548 for 2488 hands (\$239 per person). Tompkins had 364 establishments, worth \$1,867,650, producing \$3,601,685 worth of goods. Average annual wages amounted to \$518,930 for 1668 hands (\$311 per person). Most of the persons employed in these four counties were males over sixteen years of age. From the above data it can be seen that in 1870 there was a total of 4596 plants doing business in Central New York with a capital investment of \$33,748,547. Within these concerns 31,647 persons were employed with annual average wages equalling \$10,402,609. Per person this averaged \$328 a year. The total value of all goods produced amounted to \$57,482,330.

Two decades later the Federal Census showed a tremendous increase in manufactures throughout Central New York though the total number of establishments declined over 1870. According to the appended tables Onondaga produced in 1890 \$34,519,504 worth of goods, Oneida, \$27,089,325, and Cayuga, \$10,904,152. Cortland was fourth with \$5,613,461, and the other counties produced goods valued at over three million apiece. The total for



the Inland Empire was \$88,852,964. Contrasting this with the State at large it can be seen that almost 6.4 per cent. of the industry of New York was located within Central New York in 1890. The capital investment of these industries amounted to 6.7 per cent. of the entire State, while 6.8 per cent. of the number of persons employed in New York resided within Central New York. Their average annual wages amounted to 5.3 per cent. of what was paid to all laborers within New York. Per person, the average wage paid in the State a year was \$548; within Central New York it was \$357. Finally, the value of all products made in Central New York equalled 5.1 per cent. of the State's entire manufacture. Moreover, every one of the seven counties registered an increase in the number of persons employed, capital investment, wages paid, and in the value of products produced except in Tompkins and Madison where there was a slight drop in the value of goods manufactured. Cortland alone more than tripled the value of its manufactured articles.

During the 1870s and 1880s Cortland's chief industrial life centered about flouring and grist mill products, factory made cheese and butter, lumber, saddles and harness. The nature of these products reflects the agricultural background of that county. Chenango, likewise, was an agricultural county and its manufactured articles included factory made cheese and butter, flouring and grist mill products, lumber, saddles and harness, fine furniture, cooperage, and some tinware, copperware, and sheet iron. In 1880, over a half a million dollars worth of cheese and butter was made in Chenango. Close to seven hundred thousand dollars worth of cheese and butter were produced in Madison in the same year. The other commodities in this county were like those of Chenango. This was likewise true of Tompkins though its most important industry in 1880 and 1890 centered in the flouring and grist mill concerns; \$611,885 worth of these being made in 1880. Agricultural implements valued at nearly four hundred thousand were manufactured in the same year. Basically, therefore, these four counties were primarily concerned with the processing of goods related to agriculture.

To a considerable degree this was also the case in Cayuga. Agricultural implements to the value of \$2,422,323 were produced in that county in 1880, while flour and grist mill products equalled

close to \$850,000. Cheese, butter, lumber, saddles and harness likewise reflect an agricultural base. On the other hand tinware, copperware, sheet iron, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes were manufactured in appreciable quantities. Oneida also produced large quantities of agricultural goods. Cheese and butter, for example, to the value of \$1,124,196 were made in 1880, making it the largest producing county of these goods in Central New York. Flour, grist mill goods, lumber, tanned leather, saddles and harness were made in large quantities. Oneida's leading industry, however, was men's clothing, \$2,284,550 worth being manufactured in 1880. Most of this latter activity centered at Utica, while at Rome large quantities of copper and brass were produced. Onondaga also specialized in the manufacture of men's clothing, topping Oneida's production by some \$270,000. Flour and grist mill products equalled in value in 1880 \$2,105,821, with tobacco goods amounting to \$962,923. Other commodities manufactured in that county included furniture, lumber, salt, cheese and butter, saddles and harness, tinware, copperware and sheet iron. Most of the men's clothing was made in Syracuse. In general, therefore, by way of conclusion it may be said that manufacturing in Central New York down to 1890 centered about the fruits of the soil, sheep and cattle, and the forest.

Beginning with 1890, however, one notes a shift in interest and, while the older forms of manufacture continue to play an important rôle, the way is being paved for heavy industries, especially in Onondaga, Oneida and Cayuga; the other counties still specializing in products that reflected an agricultural base. In dealing with the manufactures of the first three counties much that has to be said concerns the economic life of its leading cities, Syracuse, Utica and Cayuga. Among these, Syracuse ranked 32nd throughout the nation in the net value of all products produced in 1890, Utica, was 62nd and Auburn, 79th. In that year Syracuse provided employment for 17,518 persons whose annual average wages amounted to \$8,520,677 or about \$486 per hand which was \$15 more than the average of the entire country. In that year the purchasing power of the dollar, expressed in terms of 100 for 1914, the index year, equalled 97 cents; hence the real average wage received in Syracuse was less than the money wage. Even then it was a marked increase over what it had been in 1880.

when the average money wage was but \$276. For Auburn, the average money wage per person jumped from \$371 in 1880 to \$426 in 1890, while in Utica it rose from \$312 to \$343. In all probability the average male over sixteen years of age received relatively about the same wage in all three cities, but since Syracuse employed more than twice as many males as either Auburn or Utica the average per person was higher.

Over half of the total number of hands employed in Auburn in 1880 were in those industries devoted to the manufacturing of agricultural implements and woolen goods. Other plants that hired relatively large numbers were the boot and shoe factories, and the foundry and machine shops. In addition, tobacco products, malt liquors, furniture, marble, saddles and dental equipment were produced. Expressed in terms of value, agricultural implements amounted to \$2,416,975, woolen goods equalled \$2,280,955, and boots and shoes approximated nearly six hundred thousand dollars. A decade later the value of agricultural products rose to \$3,615,572. Other goods produced in large quantities included woollens of various types, boots and shoes, carriages, malt liquors, and foundry and machine shop products. The total value of all products, other than agricultural implements, in Auburn for 1890, amounted to \$6,019,213. The manufacturing of these implements, therefore, represented Auburn's chief industrial activity. It was also the chief industrial concern of Cayuga County, since only \$1,269,367 worth of goods were manufactured in that county outside of Auburn.

Utica, in 1880, specialized in the manufacture of men's clothing and in boots and shoes, the value of the latter amounting to \$1,125,724, the former to \$2,256,375. The clothing industries also employed more hands, most of whom were women, which doubtless explains why the laborers in the boot and shoe factories received higher wages per person. Other industries of note at that time included foundries, machine shops, breweries, cotton mills, tobacco shops, printing and publishing firms, and sash, door and blind factories. In 1890, the average annual wages earned by the 4566 hands in the clothing trades amounted to \$639,774, which was more than two hundred thousand than in 1880. The value of clothing produced jumped from \$2,256,375 in 1880 to \$2,833,398 in 1890. In the cotton mills, 1491 persons, with total annual



average wages of \$458,469, produced in 1890 goods worth \$2,160,247. These two activities accounted for about one-third of the total value of all goods manufactured in Utica and about one-fifth for the County of Oneida. Other prominent industries in 1890 included boots and shoes, printing and publishing, foundry and machine shops and factories making hosiery and knit goods.

Syracuse, in 1880, produced clothing to the value of \$2,542,423 making it the largest clothing center in Central New York. Tobacco products amounted to \$847,093, foundry and machine shop goods to \$656,831, and salt to \$626,187. Other goods included cutlery and edge tools, printing and publishing, malt liquors, soap, candles, watches and glass; 2767 persons were employed in the clothing concerns, of whom only 829 were males above sixteen; hence, though the total annual average wages amounted to \$487,271, the amount received by each person was but \$176 in contrast to the \$412 paid each year to the laborers in the foundry and machine shop industries. A decade later, with wages averaging about \$419 per person, the clothing industries produced goods valued at \$3,429,219, thus retaining its position as the leading center of the Inland Empire. Carpentry products, carriages and wagons, machine shop goods and chemicals each amounted to over a million dollars a year. All of these activities including the clothing industries produced goods worth close to eight and a half million dollars which was more than a third the value of all goods made in Syracuse, and about a third of all articles manufactured in Onondaga County. Truly, this county's manufacturing habits had shifted since 1870.

By the close of the nineteenth century the Inland Empire had a total of 5599 establishments with a capital investment of \$107,638,549. This was an increase of 1266 plants and capital to the amount of \$31,107,812. Whereas in 1890 the number of plants amounted to 6.4 per cent. of the entire State, in 1900 it was 7.1 per cent. In contrast to the State, however, capital investment declined during this decade from 6.7 per cent. to 6.3 per cent. No comparison can be made between the number of laborers and wages paid as the Federal Census for 1900 separates salaried employees and wage earners; a thing it had not done before. Nor was it safe to assume that salaried employees were included in the numbers given for the previous decades; indeed, the evidence would point to the conclusion that they were not enumerated at all. How-

ever, in 1900 alone, 57,773 persons in Central New York received salaries and wages amounting to \$26,178,358 out of 923,536 individuals having \$490,931,300 wages and salaries in the entire State. The value of all goods produced in Central New York in 1900 amounted to \$107,418,883, which was \$18,665,919 more than in



VIEW OF GENESEE STREET LOOKING TOWARD MAIN SHOPPING CENTRE, UTICA  
(Courtesy Utica Chamber of Commerce)

1890. In the State at large \$2,175,726,900 worth of products were manufactured of which about 5.0 per cent. came from the Inland Empire, which was a little below the figure of 1890.

Among the counties of Central New York in 1900, Onondaga produced goods valued at \$42,162,691, and Oneida, \$35,197,339. In both counties this amounted to an increase of over eight million since 1890, Cayuga, on the other hand, with goods valued at \$11,963,192, showed a gain of a trifle over a million dollars. Cortland registered a decline from \$5,613,461 in 1890 to \$5,281,895 in 1900, though Chenango jumped from \$3,254,258 to \$3,747,645. Madison likewise increased the value of its



products from \$3,945,494 in 1890, to \$4,772,257 in 1900, as did Tompkins which rose from \$3,526,770 to \$4,293,864. Although wages and salaries actually increased in all seven counties the number of persons employed dropped over a thousand. All of the counties excepting Cayuga and Onondaga showed a decline in the number of hands employed. In respect to wages and salaries, Tompkins, though employing but 2034 persons, averaged \$499 an individual which was three dollars higher than what was paid per person in Onondaga with its 21,883 employees. Cortland's workers received \$462, Cayuga's, \$438, Chenango's, \$440, Madison's, \$432, and Oneida's, \$409.

In Cayuga, at the close of the last century, 7314 persons were employed in the industries of that county, of whom 6783 found work in Auburn. The total wages earned by the latter amounted to \$3,040,443 out of \$3,210,398 for the entire county. Actually, the number of hands in this city increased very slightly since 1890 though their earning power jumped some four hundred thousand dollars. Industrially speaking, Auburn accounted for almost all of the county manufacturing. This is borne out by an examination of the number of establishments, capital investments and value of products produced in the county. Although there were 299 plants outside of Auburn's 316, the capital investments of the former amounted to but \$1,155,182, while the value of the products made outside of Auburn equalled but \$1,372,083 in contrast to the \$10,591,109 manufactured at Auburn. The value of goods produced in Auburn in 1900 was almost twice that of a decade earlier. As in the years past, Auburn's chief activity was manufacturing farm implements which in 1900 equalled \$2,338,191 worth of goods. These plants, with a total capital investment of \$6,084,941, occupying approximately one-half of the entire city, provided work for 1662 persons whose annual wages and salaries amounted to \$886,448, or \$521 per person, which was \$63 more than the average of the county. Foundry and machine shops goods valued at \$1,110,982 were annually made at Auburn, the wages and salaries of the employees in these plants being \$583 per person. Other concerns of importance in 1900 were those devoted to the making of women's clothing, boots and shoes, malt liquors, carriages, tobacco goods and bicycles. The annual average wage and salary paid to the employees in Auburn's



316 plants was \$448, which was ten dollars higher than the county at large.

In Onondaga, 21,883 persons were employed in 1900 of whom 16,348 worked in Syracuse, the total average wages and salaries of the latter amounting to \$8,159,456 out of \$10,857,705 for the entire county. 1383 out of the county's 1863 establishments were located at Syracuse, the latter's capital investments amounting to \$31,358,055. The value of all such investments in the county was \$43,555,892. Approximately the same difference existed in respect to the value of products produced. Syracuse had two forms of industry that exceeded an annual average production of over two million dollars, that of the manufacturing of men's clothing equalling \$2,811,262. Iron and steel products to the value of \$1,861,613 were annually made in this city according to the Census of 1900, \$2,216,221 worth of foundry and machine shop products, and \$1,814,295 worth of malt liquor. Carpentry works equalled in value over nine hundred thousand dollars, boots and shoes over eight hundred thousand, and bicycles over seven hundred thousand. Many other products were manufactured such as baskets, boxes, carriages, cars, optical goods, electrical equipment and the like. In the clothing industry the average wage and salary amounted to \$409 a year, which was \$87 less than the average of the county, while that paid in the foundries and machine shops was \$526; iron and steel employees averaged about \$592. Employees in the boot and shoe factories received \$449. The average for the city was almost \$500, that for the county being three dollars less.

The Federal Census of 1900 showed 733 plants, valued at \$19,289,502 and producing \$19,550,850 worth of goods, at Utica. This left 788 establishments, valued at \$13,789,935, producing \$15,646,489 worth of products, in the rest of the county. Out of the 20,130 persons employed in Oneida's industries, 11,642 worked at Utica drawing annual salaries and wages that averaged \$424 per person, but \$13 above the average for the county. There were 59 establishments in Utica, employing 1398 individuals, engaged in making men's clothing, annually valued at \$2,585,927. The annual average pay in 1900 in that industry was \$411. In the hosiery and knitting plants, 12 in number, the annual pay equalled almost \$320 which was much below the average of the

city. On the other hand these plants produced goods valued at \$2,514,073. Foundry and machine shop goods valued at \$1,101,826 were made at Utica, its employees receiving on the average \$491 a year. Heating appliances and steam fittings were made at Utica to the value of \$1,204,693, the help averaging \$558 a year. Lumbering products to the value of a half a million were also made at this city. Other goods included agricultural implements, bicycles, tobacco, furniture and furs.

At Rome, in 1900, there were 196 establishments employing 2807 persons producing goods worth \$6,093,544. The average annual pay in these plants was \$416. Most of these workers were engaged in the copper and wire industries of that city. A wide variety of iron and metal articles also were made here. The canning industry was also important. Norwich, in Chenango County, had 109 plants valued at \$1,308,683, employing 889 persons with an average annual wage of \$460. Goods valued at \$1,556,696 were manufactured in Norwich out of a total of \$3,747,645 for the entire county. The Norwich Pharmacal Company and the Maydole hammer factory are located here. Most of Chenango's manufactured goods in 1900 centered in the butter and cheese industries. Oxford and Greene were important shipping points for agricultural products as well as poultry. In the County of Cortland, out of a total of \$5,281,895 worth of goods produced, \$3,456,262 worth were made in the city of Cortland. Wickwire Brothers, manufacturers of wire and steel products, was perhaps the foremost concern. Tanning centered at Marathon, while the county itself produced large quantities of cheese and butter. The making of maple sugar also provided employment for some people.

Ithaca, in Tompkins County, had 194 plants valued at \$2,998,657 out of a total for the county of 383 plants valued at \$6,365,873. 1419 persons found work at Ithaca, the annual average pay being \$514. Goods worth \$2,535,151 were made in this city out of \$4,293,864 for the county at large. Approximately more than one-half of the county's industrial life, therefore, centered at Ithaca. Agricultural implements, chains, butter and cheese, as well as a number of other items were manufactured at Ithaca and in the county at large. In Madison County, where there were 456 plants in 1900, 104 of these were located at

Oneida City; these latter establishments had a capital investment of \$1,301,431 out of the county's \$3,811,183. Goods valued at \$1,613,572 were made at Oneida City; the total for the county being \$4,772,339. The average annual pay at Oneida City amounted to \$466, some thirty-two dollars higher than the average of the county. Canastota had canning factories and plants producing cider vinegar. Butter and cheese goods were made generally throughout the county.

Before closing this chapter special reference should be made to the salt industry located chiefly at Salina, Geddes and Syracuse. Mention has already been made about the discovery and early utilization of the salt springs of Onondaga County. At first, rude hand pumps were used to raise the brine though in 1805 horse power was employed. A few years later water power was introduced. The first solar works were introduced in the 1820s. Subject to State control, the salt springs in Onondaga steadily produced increasing quantities of salt and that in spite of foreign competition and, at times, low tariffs. The total amount of salt produced from 1797 to 1870 was over two hundred million bushels. Although large quantities were manufactured in the decades that followed, the opening up of the salt mines in Michigan gradually forced a decline in local production. In spite of the disappearance of this once famed industry it is no exaggeration to state that Syracuse's economic foundations were built upon salt, a foundation, however, that did not slip and slide. As a result of the salt manufacturing during the nineteenth century, hundreds of individuals came to Syracuse, seeking employment. In their wake arrived many merchants, bankers and traders who by wise and prudent management were able to bolster the city's fortunes as the salt industry declined.



CHAPTER VII  
SOCIAL ASPECTS



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## CHAPTER VII

### *Social Aspects*

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THE advent of the factory system did much to alter the complexion and physical appearance of Central New York. Towering smoke stacks, row upon row of dismal factory buildings, numerous warehouses, and miles upon miles of railroad sidings dotted what once had been peaceful little villages. Moreover, the impact of these revolutionary industrial changes brought about an influx of strange and foreign faces. The good old English stock which had cleared the wilderness, built the turnpikes and roads, and which had laid out the early settlements found themselves outnumbered by hard-working Irishmen and Germans. Hamlets grew into villages, and villages into cities, the residents of which lived far differently than their fathers had several decades before. The homogeneity of the old order had passed once and for all. Mention already has been made of the population trends in Central New York during the nineteenth century, and comment appears elsewhere as to the changes in religious, political, economic and educational behaviors. But what of the people themselves, particularly in the cities where the effects of the factory system were most apparent? What kinds of homes did they live in, what forms of recreation did they enjoy, what public improvements did they promote, and what use did they make of their leisure time? These and many other pertinent questions now deserve consideration and this chapter will attempt to provide the answers.

To begin, let us briefly survey the physical limits and boundaries of the more important urban centers during the third decade of the last century. First among these centers was Utica, whose population in 1820 was a trifle under three thousand. Most of these people



lived within a rather compact area that was bounded on the north by Whitesboro Street and the Mohawk River. Although its western limits extended several blocks beyond Broadway, Bridge and Third Streets were its eastern terminus. Elizabeth Street marked its southern extremities. Crossing the village was the Erie Canal, which entered from the west about at the juncture of Whitesboro and Liberty Streets, and continued eastward from the corner of Third and Broad. Most of the public buildings, houses of business and residences were north of the Canal, though to the south on Bleeker Street were the Second Presbyterian Church, an unfinished Methodist edifice, a Roman Catholic church, the Academy and the Court House, the latter being opposite to Chancellor Square. North of the Canal and within an area bounded by Hotel, Main and First Streets were the Mansion House, the Ontario Bank, the County Clerk's office, the Post Office, the Free School, the Baptist church and Union Hall. Facing south on Main Street were the Methodist church, historic Baggs Hotel, the Utica Insurance Company, the Utica Bank, the York House and Lombard's Hotel. To the east on Broad and First was the Episcopal church, and to the west were the Welch Baptist and Presbyterian churches and the First Presbyterian Church. Without exception, Utica stood forth as the most enterprising and promising village in all of Central New York.

Syracuse in 1825—the year of its incorporation as a village—was a much smaller community. Most of its several hundred inhabitants lived north of or near the Erie Canal in wooden frame houses of one or two stories. Here and there a stone or brick residence had been built such as the home of Judge James Webb. In all probability there were not more than two to three hundred dwellings within the village whose streets, though partly laid out, were not paved and which frequently, as in Utica, ran through cultivated fields and pastures, especially in the southern and eastern portions of the corporation. Among the public buildings were the Mansion House, erected in 1823 on the site of, and including part of, the old South Salina Hotel built by Mr. Bogardus in 1806, the Syracuse House erected of brick between 1820 and 1822, the three-story Marvin Block, located on the site of the present Court House, a school north of what was to be Church Street, and the First Baptist Church on the corner of Franklin and West Genesee Streets.

Auburn, incorporated as a village in 1827, was probably somewhat larger than Syracuse at the beginning of that decade, most of its inhabitants residing around the Outlet, some two or three miles



ITHACA HOTEL (1841), OWEGO (NOW STATE) AND AURORA STREETS, ITHACA  
(Courtesy of De Witt Historical Society of Tompkins County)

from Owasco Lake. Auburn's northern boundary was Factory, Charles and Franklin Streets, its southern being Genesee and Grover Streets. Hurlbert Street marked the western limits, Lewis and East, the eastern extremities. Among the prominent buildings were the Theological Seminary, the Academy and the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches. Ithaca, Rome and Norwich, all incorporated



as villages before 1822, were small, energetic communities, as was Cortlandville.

Within these various centers life was extremely simple from our standards of today. It is true that the construction of the Erie Canal and the rapid development of the Salt Works at Onondaga had altered the complexion of Utica and Syracuse, and that an alien population was moving into these parts in increasing numbers. Nevertheless, the social behaviors of most of the inhabitants were more as they had been in the past than as they were to be as the century progressed. Shopkeepers, lawyers, ministers and artisans still continued to ply their trades in much the same manner as before. To illustrate our main thesis, let us look at the home of the average citizen. In all probability it was a simple one-story frame building—larger residences of brick and stone existed as well as a few that housed several families—surrounded by a lot on which might be found a barn, a shed or two for chickens or cow, and the inevitable outhouse. Few of these homes possessed much in the way of architectural beauty though their very simplicity lent a charm that is absent today. Within these homes cane or rush-bottom chairs, sometimes decorated with gilding, might be found in the parlor though more sturdy and less pretentious ones were scattered throughout the other rooms. Equally substantial tables, sideboards, dressers and highboys were in use as were massive beds, often of the four-poster variety. Those of larger incomes might have graceful sofas and melodeons made of rosewood or mahogany. The latter, however, were quite rare, there being but ten, so Moses M. Bagg reports, in all of Utica. The heavy timbered floors were covered in most instances by carpets of ingrain, though the Brussels variety was not unknown in the homes of the well-to-do. Those of more modest income were content with rugs made of wool or rags, frequently spun and woven by the female members of the family.

Furnaces, of course, were unknown and only a few were the proud possessors of a stove. Possibly coal was used in the latter, but the presence of an abundant wood supply from the neighboring country indicates a wide use of the latter. Roaring fires, well-banked at night, most certainly cast a delightful charm and atmosphere, even if most of the heat went up the chimney. As a result, those



who first occupied the choice seats around the large hearth might be tolerably comfortable in front though their backs were often cold and exposed to drafts that crept in through door and window. The halls leading from the main living room to parlor or chamber were like barns and the doors to these rooms were only opened when necessary. Bedrooms were not much better and one hurried his undressing so as to sink deep within feathers as soon as possible. To offset the penetrating cold in the beds, warming pans, hot soap-stones and bricks were placed at one's feet. And many a woman carried a heating device with her to church which, like the schools, was poorly heated. In most homes the wide open hearth likewise served as the cook stove. From the many pots, pans and spits that hung suspended over the coals, came the wholesome but rather tiresome food which was frequently washed down by strong beer or whiskey. Fingers were often used in place of the two-pronged tin forks or broad-bladed knives, depending upon one's station in life and breeding. The dishes used were generally of earthenware, sometimes colored and figured. Finally, the hand or sleeve served as napkin except in the homes of the *élite* and wealthy.

On the basis of the newspapers of this early period, and from the records of medical societies, it must be concluded that fevers and diseases were quite common. In part, this was due to the stuffy conditions of the homes during the winter months; it may also be explained by the lack of pure water. Most of the water consumed came from wells that were not always located where they should have been—thus providing a splendid source for the spread of bacteria. Moreover, the greater part of the meat and milk was locally produced and marketed under conditions that were far from sanitary. Adequate refrigeration also was below standard. Sanitation, in brief, was lacking and the wonder is that more people, especially children, expectant mothers, and the aged, did not die.

The lack of cleanliness was more than offset by godliness which, unfortunately, was more formal than real. The entire family religiously attended divine service—often two or three times on Sunday—and home devotions were quite common. Church going had certain features of attraction that were not all summed up in the Bible or long-winded sermon. Here one met many friends and the latest gossip and news was often broadcast before the local papers were printed. Then again, the church socials and festivals

provided additional entertainment and relaxation. Moreover, at church one might let off steam by joining in the soul-stirring singing of that age or listen to the music that was ground out from some barrel organ. Pipe organs became common only after 1830. Finally, church weddings, christenings and funerals were events not to be missed. And if one chanced to be a friend he might partake not only of the service itself, but of the bountiful refreshments that followed. Sometimes the younger men present indulged too freely and were apt to listen to a sermon on the next Sunday on the wickedness of intemperance. Fortunately, no one had to walk far to attend these activities and church services, though few of the roads had anything like a wooden sidewalk.

Entertainment, however, was not confined merely to church attendance. The children had ample space within the villages to play to their hearts' content. In Syracuse, for example, the youngsters during the summer or after a day at school might wander over to the Red Mill and watch the huge wheels grind round and round. Nearby was the Mill Pond which afforded boating, fishing and swimming during the warm months and which in winter was the scene of many a gay skating party. At other times, they might attend Samuel Larned's marvelous show at the Mansion House, recently arrived by canal from Utica. Larned toured the country in those days, going from town to town, much to the delight of those who stood hushed before his wax figures of Lady Jane Grey and Mary, Queen of Scots. Larned soon had a rival in Lucas O. Phinney, whose museum on the second floor of the Old Yellow Block entertained hundreds of people until the late 1850s when fire destroyed the entire building. Adults as well as children frequented Phinney's show. And why not? As one entered the room he heard the shrill and discordant notes of a barrel organ that long since had seen its best days, but which never failed to attract an interested audience. For on top of the organ were several wax figures which banged away most lustily on a number of brass bells. Beyond was a case containing life-sized figures of famous historical characters and still another case that housed some honest to goodness snakes. Then there was a small electric machine whose sparks and shocks thrilled the Onondaga Indians from the Reservation. The climax was reached when the room was darkened and the glare of a magic lantern announced that



pictures were to be shown. Similar entertainments took place at Utica, Auburn and Rome. At Utica an added attraction was a menagerie whose owner proudly exhibited a fierce tiger from Brazil.

Other forms of entertainment centered about the hotels and taverns. Generally the better hotels, such as Bagg's, at Utica, and



ITHACA HOTEL, STATE AND AURORA STREETS, ITHACA, 1939

(Courtesy of De Will Historical Society of Tompkins County)

the Syracuse House, gave up the first floor to the lobby and restaurant, and here many political, social and religious gatherings took place. In addition, this floor housed a very popular bar. Above were the guest rooms and a large ball room. In the Mansion House at Syracuse this latter room was fitted with plank benches that could be removed for more elaborate dinners and dances. The cotillions and country dances were most popular. The women, dressed in their Sunday habits, thoroughly enjoyed the festivity. "No table was set; ices and creams with other foreign notions were still unimported. Waiters carried around sandwiches, pickled oysters, sweetmeats and coffee, then followed again with whiskey, punch or Madeira." For in spite of temperance advocates,



the great bulk of the population were heavy drinkers. Fashion, we are told, was on the side of the glass and no party was thought a success without it. Respectable homes, moreover, always displayed a well-filled brandy bottle on the sideboard, and many "nips" were taken at odd times during the day.

Intellectual activities centered chiefly in the churches, some of which maintained small libraries stocked with religious writings and stories. Then there were the newspapers which frequently devoted much space to articles on history, science and religion. Here and there public lectures were given in one of the village halls, the topics presented including subjects such as travel, botany, description of foreign countries, history, political issues and questions of morality. Additional stimulus was afforded by the informal gatherings at the home of some prominent citizen or, perchance, at the tavern where the latest news from other parts was freely dispensed by travelers. Beyond these activities, however, plus what the local school teacher might contribute, little was done along the intellectual lines.

The construction of the Erie Canal, its subsidiaries, and the appearance of the railroad brought about a definite change in the patterns of social behavior. All of the principal villages grew in size and population. Utica, as has been noted, progressed so rapidly that by 1832 it became an incorporated city, a status that was bestowed upon Syracuse in 1847 and Auburn in 1848. More imposing buildings, houses of business and elaborate residences sprang up in all of these centers. Many of the latter were constructed of brick in a most ornate style. In some cases enterprising contractors raised what might be termed apartments, one of these being the Raynor Resident Block on West Water in Syracuse. Built of brick in 1831 this two-story affair housed four dwellings. Ornamental doorways, high stoops and stone facings were some of the distinguishing architectural features of this building. In the basement were the kitchens and dining rooms, with double parlors and bedrooms above. Even the homes of the average citizen had improved and, with the addition of a separate room for cooking, the large open hearth became less conspicuous. The widespread use of stoves made for more comfort during the winter. Moreover, by the middle of the century, running water was brought to the homes of most of the people from nearby reservoirs and lakes, an

improvement which, together with an advance in medical knowledge, slackened the death rate.

At the same time greater wealth had come to a share of the population who proceeded to display the same by elaborate parties, musicales, dances and travel. Some were so fortunate as to be able to visit Europe and upon their return they entertained their friends with accounts of their journeys. Practically all of these more fortunate individuals adorned their homes with more elaborate furnishings, maintained servants and dashed back and forth throughout the city in horse-drawn carriages. Moreover, they were the friends and patrons of public libraries and lectures. Perchance it was a William Lloyd Garrison who stopped at Auburn, a Horace Mann at Utica, or a Wendell Phillips at Syracuse. Again, it might be a Jenny Lind who, not finding accommodations quite suitable at the Empire Hotel in Syracuse, most cordially accepted the hospitality offered by Charles B. Sedgwick. Even the children had greater opportunities for entertainment, as traveling circuses and shows had now become common.

By 1870 greater changes had taken place. Prominent city buildings arose, some of which are still standing. At Syracuse there were the Granger and Bastable Blocks, the latter providing space for the post office and the First National Bank. Shakespeare Hall housed the Second National Bank, the Masonic Fraternity, and provided plenty of room for concerts, dramas and public meetings. Then there was the Weiting Block which contained the Library and Reading Room of the Franklin Institute, the Museum of Natural History, the local Historical Association and several banks; in addition there was a stage for theatrical productions. The Barton Block on East Genesee had a stage which was said to be the largest west of New York City. At Utica the public buildings were "creditable in their architectural style." The City Hall on Genesee Street was a fine edifice of cream colored brick with an imposing tower at one end. In this building was housed the City Library which contained 4500 volumes. Another prominent building was the State Lunatic Asylum on the western extremities of the city. Then there was the Utica Academy, constructed in the Renaissance style, the St. John's Female Orphan Asylum, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, the Utica Mechanics Association building on

Fayette Street and St. Luke's House on the corner of Columbia and Hamilton Streets.

In these cities adequate fire protection was afforded, thus bringing to an end the costly fires that had ravaged them in the past. At Auburn, for example, there was a fire alarm system with fifteen stations. Moreover, this city was well supplied with gas, of which over twelve million feet were used annually. The Asylum for Insane Convicts and the State Penitentiary were located at Auburn. At Rome, which was incorporated as a city in 1870, was the United States Arsenal, while at Ithaca great pride was shown in a public library, the gift of Ezra Cornell who was also the founder of Cornell University. Cortland, Norwich and Oneida City were still villages, though the progress that had taken place in the middle of the century gave ample promise of a greater future.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century all of these centers grew and expanded at a most rapid rate. Numerous public buildings, electric lights, and miles of gas and water mains as well as many department stores, banks, shops, factories and residences all attested to the growing life of Central New York. The residents of these communities, however, knew how to enjoy life and daily scores of them might be seen resting in any one of several parks, such as Fayette at Syracuse. On week-ends the roads and paths leading to nearby resorts were thronged with carriages and bicycles, while others swarmed to the city theaters and amusement places. Well-known actors and actresses usually stopped on their tours at Utica and Syracuse, such as Lillian Russell and Della Fox. Vaudeville also had its following and burlesque was offered on occasion. Mention should also be made of the large entertainment centers, such as the Alhambra Hall at Syracuse. Erected in 1886 this building was used as a roller skating rink well down into the present century; concerts, charity balls and political conventions likewise employed the facilities of this hall. Dancing parties and balls retained all of their old-time attraction and the city papers and directories of Central New York were crowded with notices of these festivities and of people who specialized in teaching dancing. More intensive physical exercise might be had at the German Halls at Syracuse and Utica, the Y. M. C. A., the numerous playgrounds and on the campuses of Hamilton, Colgate, Syracuse and Cornell. Finally, there was the great American game of baseball, played on



sand-lots, schoolyards and in the various parks to hundreds of enthusiastic fans.

Of clubs and societies there seem to have been no end. Masons, Odd Fellows, Maccabees, Foresters and the like had their lodges in every important village and city. Closely identified with these organizations were a number of women societies such as the Daughters of Rebecca. All of these maintained club rooms in one of the important buildings, though in a few cases special "temples" had been erected. Then there were a number of clubs devoted to cards, such as the Clover Whist and Century Whist Societies whose tournaments attracted considerable attention. Other individuals favored membership in Camera societies and what was indulged in for fun or art at that time has become an important source for our knowledge of life in the gay nineties. Others braved the ridicule of many and pursued a golf ball around a few select and private courses though at Auburn, Syracuse and Ithaca considerable interest was shown in yachting. Practically every village and city in Central New York had its posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Decoration Day became the occasion for patriotic parades and speeches that distinctly rivaled those of the Glorious Fourth and Labor Day. In this respect mention should be made of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, and the Daughters of the War of 1812 whose influence in civic and national life was beginning to attract attention. Youth organizations, such as the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, were providing entertainment, physical exercise, intellectual instruction, and living accommodations to many. Finally, there were the Morning Musicales, the Round Table, the Century Club and a score of other organizations that promoted the finer things of life and encouraged public discussion of local and national issues.

Many of the individuals who participated in these undertakings were possessed of some means. This was reflected in the large stone, brick and frame houses that characterized the better residential areas. All of these homes, as well as many others, were heated by coal-burning furnaces, well supplied with pure running water, bath tubs and lavatories, and lighted at night by gas and electricity. Telephones were also in use. Here and there large pretentious homes, constructed in the manner of a medieval castle, were erected with moats, drawbridges, turrets and towers. One of these, known

as the Yates Castle, is at present being used by the School of Journalism of Syracuse University. Most of the inhabitants, however, lived in one, two and three-story frame buildings, many of them being ornamented in the ginger-bread fashion of that day. Practically all of these homes had running water and in many instances adequate sanitary devices. Less fortunate people, however, still depended upon the outhouses, used coal or wood-burning stoves, and lighted their homes by kerosene lamps. Many of the latter individuals lived in the outskirts of the cities and villages, or along the railroads and canals or in the factory districts where rents were cheap even if unsatisfactory. These sub-standard homes were a constant eyesore, but little was done by either the city authorities or owners to improve conditions. Naturally, they became centers infested with disease and vice.

The nineteenth century, however, was generally an age of rising economic and social standards. Increased industrialization and improved methods of transportation and education brought about a richer and fuller life for most people. Better fitting and more elaborate clothes were worn by most people and the diet, while still overburdened with starchy foods, was more varied and wholesome. A greater assortment of vegetables were on the market, salt water fish in larger quantities were in demand, and lighter desserts in the form of sherbets, ices and ice cream were served. Moreover, the sideboards less frequently were adorned with whiskey and brandy bottles. On the other hand beer and ale became more common beverages and during the heat of a summer's evening many a child might be seen hurrying home from a nearby saloon with a bucket of foaming beer. Finally, it might be noted on the basis of available religious statistics that church-going was less common than at the beginning of the century. Poverty drove many from the usual places of worship. Others, taking to their bicycles, rode into the country or to nearby resorts, while some preferred to remain at home, read the Sunday papers and wait for Monday morning's factory whistles that announced another week of work.

CHAPTER VIII  
CHURCH AND CHAPEL





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## CHAPTER VIII

### *Church and Chapel*

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THE genesis of the Christian faith in Central New York goes back to the day when the fleur-de-lis waved high over the Inland Empire. For, in the wake of Champlain and his stout musketeers, there came humble Recollect Friars and Jesuit Fathers whose noble and unselfish efforts in behalf of Christ have been related in the previous volume. Father leMoyne, as we know, penetrated the Onondaga country at an early date; Fathers Chaumont and Dablon celebrated Mass on Pompey Hill; Father Bruyas labored among the Oneidas, and, under the guiding hand of Father leMercier, missions were founded among the Cayugas and Senecas. Throughout the seventeenth century these hardy missionaries of the Roman faith continued their efforts and converted many Indians to Christianity. Nor did their labors cease during the next half century though by this time ministers of other creeds had entered this area. Moravians from Pennsylvania, and Protestants from Albany and the upper Hudson Valley fingered their way into Central New York, but as long as the French remained masters of this country, the Roman Church played the dominant rôle. However, when the English gained title to this vast domain, the work of the Roman Church was sadly crippled, though missionaries occasionally continued to visit the Indians, notably the Oneidas. "One of the most interesting features of this period," according to William McClusky of Syracuse, who most kindly provided the author with a fascinating narrative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, "was a request, addressed to Pope Pius VI by the Oneidas, for the appointment of a Bishop of the Oneidas . . . with his See to be established at Oneida Castle."

The Roman Pontiff, however, had other plans and in 1789 Father John Carroll was named Bishop of Baltimore, his diocese including the Oneida country.

With the withdrawal of the French in 1763, Protestant missionaries swarmed into Central New York hard upon the heels of the advancing fringe of settlement. Nor did this effort stop when the Thirteen Colonies wrested their independence from Britain in 1783. Indeed, once this territory had passed under the Stars and Stripes and settlement in the real sense of the word had begun, then Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Congregational societies were planted in Central New York. Here and there other creeds, like the Universalist, Dutch Reformed, Quaker and Unitarian, made their appearance. Between 1763 and 1815, therefore, the various Protestant churches greatly outnumbered the Roman Catholic, which in general had no church organization in this area though occasional visitations were made by priests from Eastern New York.

During the course of the decades that followed down to 1860, tremendous strides were made by all faiths, Protestant as well as Roman Catholic. Unfortunately, no reliable statistics are available as to the number of communicants or church buildings. It may be concluded, however, on the basis of the ancestry of the settlers, that the bulk of the population was Protestant. Gordon's *Gazetteer*, published in 1836, provides an insight into church affiliation even though his figures relate solely to villages and cities and probably are neither complete nor precisely accurate. According to Gordon, there were one hundred and one Presbyterian societies within Central New York, seventy-five Baptist, sixty-three Methodist, twenty-seven Episcopal, eleven Congregational, ten Universalist, and seven Dutch Reformed. In addition there were three Roman Catholic, two Quaker, two Christian, one Unitarian and one Swedenborgian, the latter being located at Ithaca; the Unitarian was at Trenton, in Oneida County. Presbyterians outnumbered all others in every county except Madison and Chenango, where the Baptists were most active. Of these Presbyterian churches, Onondaga and Oneida had twenty-three each. The Methodists put forth their best efforts in Chenango, Tompkins, Onondaga and Oneida, the Dutch Reformed in Onondaga and Oneida, the Congregationalist in Chenango, and the Universalist in Madison and Chenango.



Eight of the twenty-seven Episcopal churches were in Chenango, and five others were located within Onondaga; the two Christian churches were in Tompkins. The Quakers had a meeting house in Oneida and another in Tompkins; the three Roman Catholic edifices were at Utica, Salina and Auburn. Gordon does not state



CENTRAL NEW YORK BIBLE CONFERENCE, HOMER

the number of communicants but, in view of the impact of frontier conditions, it is extremely doubtful if more than one-third of the total population professed church membership.

Between 1836 and 1860, however, religious activities multiplied at a great rate, as may be seen from an examination of the annual year books of the various creeds and the Federal Census of 1860. According to this latter source there were 759 religious edifices within this area, valued at over two million dollars, with a seating capacity of 297,383. Two hundred of these buildings were in Oneida, one hundred and forty-seven in Onondaga, one hundred and thirteen in Chenango, ninety in Cayuga, eighty-five in Madison,

seventy-one in Tompkins, and fifty-three in Cortland. With a total population of 393,837 persons, Central New York had more than enough churches, and one may be certain that there was plenty of room for all who wished to attend divine service. Clearly, religious enthusiasm and zeal had outdistanced judgment in the construction of church buildings. Take Tompkins, for example, here there were 29,120 seats for 31,409 persons—in other words every man, woman and child, except for 2289, was assured of a place to worship. In Chenango, all but 2939 persons were confident of finding a seat on Sunday, and in Oneida, where greater restraint seems to have been exercised, all but 18,597 individuals could be accommodated. Organized religious efforts, especially among the Protestants, had dissipated its energies and efforts. Unfortunately, the Census of 1860 gives no definite information as to the number of communicants, but it is doubtful if it could have been over seventy thousand. Hence, pastor, minister and priest must have faced many empty pews each Sunday.

Of the 759 church buildings, thirty-nine were Roman Catholic, from which it may be concluded that Central New York was predominantly Protestant. The Methodists were the strongest in every county except for Chenango, where the Baptists were quite active. The latter stood second in every county except Onondaga, where the Presbyterians had six more edifices. The Congregationalists were most effective in Chenango and Oneida, the Presbyterians in Cayuga, Oneida and Onondaga, the Roman Catholic in Onondaga and Oneida, and the Episcopal in Chenango, Oneida and Onondaga. The influx of foreign born, notably from Ireland, helps to explain the increase in Roman Catholics. The appended tables show the distribution of the other faiths. From the point of view of property values, the Methodists stood first with over \$488,000, the Presbyterians second with over \$479,000, the Episcopalians third with over \$358,000, the Baptists fourth with over \$357,000, and the Roman Catholic fifth with over \$236,000.

By 1890, according to the Federal Census of that year, the total number of church buildings and communicants had greatly increased. In contrast to 1860 there were 959 edifices, a gain of two hundred, while the communicant list was close to one hundred and fifty thousand, which was a little more than one-third of the entire population of Central New York. Of these buildings, two



hundred and fifty-eight were in Oneida, two hundred and six in Onondaga, one hundred and twenty-nine in Cayuga, one hundred and nineteen in Chenango, ninety-five in Madison, eighty-three in Tompkins and sixty-nine in Cortland. In respect to population Onondaga had the lowest number of communicants, while Oneida had the largest. Out of the total communicant list, 54,149 (36.3 per cent.) were Roman Catholics, 37,711 of whom resided in Onondaga and Oneida. The Methodists stood next with 29,396 (19.6 per cent.), and the Presbyterians were third with 17,732 (11.8 per cent.). Next in order came the Baptists with 17,338 (11.6 per cent.); the Episcopalians were fifth with 10,114 members (6.7 per cent.), and the Congregationalists were sixth with 6963 communicants (4.7 per cent.). The remainder, less than ten per cent., were divided among some thirty-three other faiths, as may be seen from the appended tables. Although the Roman Catholics led in the number of members, Central New York was still predominately Protestant. In respect to the number of church buildings, the Methodists had two hundred and eighty-one, the Baptists were second with one hundred and forty, the Presbyterians third with one hundred and nineteen, the Episcopalians fourth with ninety, the Roman Catholics fifth with eighty-three and the Congregational sixth, with fifty-six. Precisely what the situation was at the turn of the century is not known, as the Federal Census of 1900 gives no religious data, though it is known from other sources that Protestantism was still the faith of the majority in that year.

Directing our attention to the denominations themselves, one finds that the Episcopal Church in Central New York was first under the authority of the Bishop of New York, the latter diocese having been founded in 1785. The rapid development of up-state New York, particularly after 1815, ultimately led to the creation of the Diocese of Western New York, in 1838, which had jurisdiction over all of Central New York. Thirty years later another division took place with the establishment of the Diocese of Central New York, the Rev. Frederic Dan Huntington being the first and only bishop throughout the remainder of the century. The Diocesan See in 1900 was located at the Church of Our Saviour at Syracuse. According to the annual year book of the Episcopal Church, the total number of churches and missions in 1900 within the Inland Empire amounted to seventy-six, with a communicant list of nearly



eleven thousand. Although the number of edifices was less than in 1890, the number of communicants was a trifle larger. Syracuse, with ten congregations, was first in total membership with over twenty-five hundred, Utica was second with seven churches and over nineteen hundred communicants, and Rome was third with two churches and six hundred and nine members.

St. John's, Ithaca, founded in 1822, had four hundred and sixty members; Emmanuel, Norwich, established in 1832, had two hundred and seventy-six; Zion, Greene, organized in 1833, had two hundred and forty-one, and St. John's, Oneida City, founded in 1843, had two hundred and fifty-six. At Auburn, St. Peter's, formed in 1805, had one hundred and fifty members, and at St. John's, in the same city, there were four hundred and ten communicants. At Cortland, Grace Church, established in 1847, had two hundred and two members. The oldest church in Syracuse was St. Paul's, founded in 1826; the corner-stone of the present edifice was laid in 1844. Other Syracuse churches included St. Mark's, formed in 1832; Trinity, established in 1856; Grace, organized in 1871; St. John's, formed in 1889; Calvary, in 1881; All Saints, in 1896, and the Cathedral Church of Our Saviour in 1898. At Utica there were Trinity, founded in 1798; Grace, in 1838; St. George's, in 1862; St. Luke's, in 1873; Calvary, in 1850; Holy Cross, in 1890, and St. Andrew's in 1899. Zion Church, Paris Hill, was founded in 1795; St. Paul's, Oxford, in 1814; St. Andrew's, New Berlin, in 1814, and St. Stephen's, Holland Patent, in 1821.

Among those whose labors within the Episcopal Church will always be remembered was Rev. Frederic Dan Huntington. Born in 1819 in New England, Rev. Mr. Huntington was brought up within the Unitarian Church and in 1842 became pastor of the South Congregational (Unitarian) Church of Boston. Shortly thereafter he became influenced by certain Episcopalians and entered that communion by the close of the 1850s. In 1860 he was the rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Boston and eight years later was chosen to head the newly created diocese of Central New York, where he continued to serve until his death in 1904. Bishop Huntington was more than a great ecclesiastic, and won the admiration and respect of thousands for his many charitable and humanitarian works. The Hospital of the Good Shepherd, humbly begun as the House of the Good Shepherd, stands as a living symbol today

of Bishop Huntington's interest in charitable undertakings. He was also highly instrumental in founding the St. John's School at Manlius, New York. Assisting him in the work of the Church were a number of outstanding priests. Among these mention should be made of Dr. Henry R. Lockwood, Dr. Alfred Goodrich and Rev. Edwin M. Van Deusen, Samuel H. Coxe, Hugh L. Clarke, John Brainard, James A. Robinson, L. P. Franklin, Henry E. Hubbard, Amos Watkins, John T. Rose, S. H. Synott and others. The work of the Episcopal Church among the Onondaga Indians is worthy of mention.

Central New York was included within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Baltimore in 1789. There were few Catholics, however, within this area at that time but, with the development of the salt industry at Salina, and with the growth of Auburn and Utica a marked change took place. Prominent laymen in the first three decades of the nineteenth century included Thomas McCarthy of Salina and John C. and Nicholas Devereaux of Utica. It was through the efforts of John Devereaux that a corporation was formed to establish the "first Catholic Church in Western New York." The result of this was to be seen in the foundation of St. John's Church, Utica, in 1821, Rev. John Farnan being the first pastor. The next center of Catholic growth, according to Mr. William McClusky, whose narrative is being followed quite closely, was at Salina where Thomas McCarthy was instrumental in founding St. John the Baptist in 1827, the first pastor being Rev. Francis Donohue, whose parish included the counties of Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, Tompkins, Cayuga and half of Madison. Later a parish was located at Auburn. During these years Central New York was under the authority of the See of New York, erected in 1808 from the Diocese of Baltimore. As the number of Catholics and churches increased, Central New York was detached from the Archdiocese of New York and became a part of the Diocese of Albany, founded in 1847.

By this time several new parishes had been planted, such as the Church of the Assumption, St. Mary's—both at Syracuse—St. Joseph's, Utica, and a society at Florence. Reverends Michael Heas, Adalbert Inama and Joseph Prost were early rectors. Soon other parishes were established, notably St. Patrick's at Utica, Rev. Patrick Carraher being the pastor in 1851. By 1860 there were



thirty-nine Catholic edifices within Central New York, there being three each in Cayuga, Chenango and Tompkins, two each in Cortland and Madison, fifteen in Oneida and eleven in Onondaga. So rapid was the growth that it was found necessary to relieve the Episcopal authority at Albany of a share of the labors that so large a diocese entailed. As a result the Diocese of Rochester was set off in 1868 which included among other counties Cayuga and Tompkins. Reverend Bernard J. McQuaid became the first bishop of this diocese which at the time could boast of but thirty-eight priests. Under his thoughtful administration, however, the work of the Church progressed and by 1890 there were thirteen church edifices in Cayuga and four in Tompkins, a net gain of eleven in thirty years. Bishop McQuaid continued his noteworthy services until his death in 1909.

In the meantime the Diocese of Albany was relieved of the work in the remainder of Central New York by the creation of the Diocese of Syracuse in 1886. Reverend Patrick A. Ludden became its first bishop, a post he nobly filled until his death in 1912. At the time of his elevation, the Diocese of Syracuse contained "sixty-four secular and ten religious or order priests, ministering to forty-six parishes; twenty-seven mission churches; fifteen chapels; and two hospitals." Up to 1904 the diocesan see was located at the Church of St. John the Evangelist; after that date it was at St. Mary's. The flourishing condition of the Roman Catholic Church "is evident from the fact" that, at the time of Bishop Ludden's death, there were "seventy-four parish churches and thirty-five missions." Under his direction the Cathedral Sanctuary was enlarged and rebuilt, St. John's Catholic Academy (Syracuse) was established and the Holy Trinity Church (Syracuse) was founded. To both Ludden and McQuaid much credit is due for the growth of the Roman Catholic Church within the Inland Empire.

Directing our attention to the Methodist Church one finds, at the opening of the nineteenth century, that Central New York was within what was known as the Philadelphia Conference. Within this ecclesiastical unit there were several sub-divisions called districts. The Albany District, for example, included Chenango and Oneida in 1802. There were also Cayuga, Western and Genesee Districts. So rapid was the expansion of Methodism in New York that new arrangements had to be made whereby the entire State



was divided into four conferences, one of these being the Oneida Conference. By 1835 the latter unit embraced eight districts, among which were the Chenango, Oneida, Cayuga, Oswego and Black River Districts. Each of these sub-units was broken up into Circuits or Stations, Chenango having thirteen, Oneida and Cayuga seventeen apiece, Oswego, thirteen, and Black River, twelve. According to the data furnished by Gordon, the communicant rolls of these Circuits included by 1835, 22,256 persons, of which 162 were colored. Chenango had over five thousand, Oneida and Cayuga over forty-five hundred each, Oswego over forty-three hundred, and Black River over thirty-six hundred. Later, our seven counties were grouped into the Black River and Oneida Conferences with districts such as Rome, Syracuse, Oneida, Auburn, Cortland and Cazenovia. The prosperous condition of the Methodist Church by 1860 was evidenced by the presence of 263 places of worship within Central New York, Oneida alone having sixty-seven, Onondaga fifty-five, and Tompkins, thirty-five. In Cortland there were but nineteen churches though this was more than the total edifices owned by a half a dozen other sects in all of the Inland Empire.

In 1868 the Central New York Conference was established out of equal portions of the Oneida and Black River Conferences, and included the districts of Utica, Rome, Cazenovia, Syracuse, Auburn and Cortland. Four years later Utica was assigned to the Northern New York Conference and, about the same time, Chenango and a part of Madison were allocated to the Wyoming Conference. By 1872 the total number of members and probationers in the Black River Conference amounted to nearly eleven thousand, Central New York had over twenty-seven thousand, and Wyoming over twenty-five thousand. By the close of the century the Central New York Conference consisted of three districts: first, Auburn, which embraced Tompkins and Cayuga; second, Cazenovia, which included Cortland and a part of Madison; and third, Syracuse, which ranged over all of Onondaga. Chenango was within the Wyoming Conference and Oneida was a part of the Black River Conference. The Federal Census of 1890 showed a total of 29,396 communicants and 281 churches within Central New York. Oneida and Onondaga accounted for over fifteen thousand members and 131 edifices. In 1900 the membership of the Central New York Conference was

as follows: Auburn District, 7222 members and 38 societies; Cazenovia, 6831 communicants and 43 societies; Syracuse, 7545 members and 47 societies.

Among the clergy who assisted in the extension of the Methodist Church in Central New York mention might be made of the Reverend Matthew Simpson, Edward R. Ames, Jesse T. Peck, Charles H. Fowler, Charles McCabe, Levi Scott, Henry W. Warren, John P. Newman and others. Prominent elders at the close of the century included C. M. Eddy of Auburn, Arthur Cope-land of Cazenovia, O. A. Houghton of Cortland, B. W. Hamilton of Homer, E. A. Baldwin of Tully, and H. R. Bender, C. N. Sims and J. B. Kenyon of Syracuse. Reference also should be made to Isaac L. Hunt of Rome and Cyrus D. Foss of the Chenango District. In Syracuse, prominent clergymen have been Reverend Ebenezer Arnold, C. S. Bragdon, C. P. Lyford, Walter S. Wright and others. During the nineteenth century the Methodist Church supported a seminary at Lima, the Academy at Cazenovia, and Syracuse University. In addition, there were several newspapers, reference to which was made in another chapter.

Looking at the growth of the Presbyterian Church, one discovers the establishment of the Presbytery of Oneida in 1802. It embraced all the clergy and members west of the eastern lines of the Counties of Otsego and Herkimer. According to Dr. J. Q. Adams, author of a *History of Auburn Theological Seminary*, there were but six ministers and no organized church society within the presbytery at that time. Three years later the Presbytery of Geneva was founded; later, Onondaga and Cayuga were created. These units were within the Synods of Utica and Geneva. By 1834 the Synod of Utica included five presbyteries, one of which was that of Oneida. In the same year the Synod of Geneva embraced the Presbyteries of Geneva, Chenango, Onondaga, Cayuga, Tioga, Cortland, Bath and Delaware. A summary view of the Presbyterian Church at that time shows the Presbytery of Oneida as having forty-eight clergy, forty churches and 5364 members. Chenango had fourteen pastors, twenty-two edifices and 2268 members; Cortland, twelve ministers, sixteen churches and 2405 communicants; Onondaga, seventeen pastors, twenty-six places of worship and 2864 members; Cayuga, thirty-one rectors, as many



churches and 4296 communicants; and Geneva, thirty-seven ministers, thirty-eight edifices and 4378 members.

By 1860 the Presbyterian Church had a total of ninety-one edifices within Central New York, fifty of these being in Oneida and Onondaga Counties. The Federal Census of 1890 showed ninety edifices and a total of 10,114 members. Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga were the chief centers of Presbyterian strength. In Syracuse, the First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1824 and in the following year an edifice was erected. A second building was constructed in 1850. Among its honored clergy reference should be made to the Reverend John W. Adams, Charles McHarg, Sherman B. Canfield, Nelson Millard, George B. Spaulding and others. Other Presbyterian churches within the city were the Park Central, Fourth, Westminster, and Memorial, whose pastors included Isaac Fillmore, L. Mason, John S. Bacon, Dr. Norman Seaver, Alfred E. Noyes and Albert J. Abeel. In Utica, the First Presbyterian Society was founded in 1803 though not until 1807 did it have a place of worship; another edifice was erected in 1826 and again in 1851. Among its pastors were Rev. Henry Dwight, Rev. Samuel C. Aiken and Rev. Philemon Fowler. Other Presbyterian churches in Utica have been the Third and the Westminster. At Auburn, the chief activity of this Church centered about the Auburn Theological Seminary, founded in 1818, whose executive officers and faculties have brought honor to themselves and this worthy institution. Among these mention should be made of Reverend Caleb Alexander, Henry Mills, Ezra A. Huntington, Dirck C. Lansing, Henry M. Booth and others.

Closely identified with the work of the Presbyterian Church in Central New York, during the early years of the nineteenth century, was the Congregational Church. Possessed of no organization comparable to dioceses, circuits or presbyteries, this Church nevertheless has played an active rôle in the religious life of the community. Hardly had this area been opened for settlement than hardy Congregational pastors from New England and Eastern New York poured into the frontier, zealous in their endeavors to advance the teaching of the Master. Before the close of the eighteenth century permanent societies were planted at Westmoreland, Paris, Oxford, Sherburne, Bridgewater and Camden, and by 1834, the year of the founding of the New York General Asso-



ciation, others had been established at places like Utica, Munnsville, Norwich, Rome, Syracuse, Smyrna, Cortland, Hamilton, Greene, Moravia and Homer. By 1860 there were forty-two Congregational edifices within Central New York, twenty-two of these were in Oneida and fourteen in Chenango. Thirty years later there were fifty-six places of worship and almost seven thousand communicants. Oneida had nineteen churches and 1680 members; Onondaga, six churches and 1245 communicants, and Chenango, twelve edifices and 1151 members.

The largest Congregational Society in 1900 was the Plymouth Church of Syracuse, organized in the fall of 1853, Reverend M. E. Strieby being the first pastor. During his eleven years of ministration a chapel was built and later the brick edifice on Madison Street. During the late 1870s this society, under the able leadership of Reverend A. F. Beard, became the most outstanding Protestant church in the city. Edward A. Lawrence followed Beard and after him came Reverends J. C. Little and E. N. Packard, the latter being in charge at the turn of the century. Other prominent Congregational churches in Syracuse included the First, Danforth, Goodwill, Geddes and South Avenue, among whose pastors were John T. Avery, Charles G. Lee, J. C. Andrus, F. L. Luce, H. A. Manchester, L. F. Buell and W. F. Ireland. In Utica the Bethesda Church was organized in 1802, largely as the result of Reverend Daniel Morris and a group of Welsh Congregationalists. Two years later a small frame edifice was erected which was followed in 1834 by the brick church. Among its pioneer clergy were H. R. Powell, Robert Everett and Evan Griffiths. The Reverend R. G. Jones was in charge in 1900. Reverend H. H. Tweedy, prominent in the national life of the Church, was pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church of Utica, organized in 1883. The Congregational Church was also active at Rome at an early date, there being two societies there by 1840. Later these two societies united. Among their pastors were Reverend Moses Gillett, Selden Hayes, George C. Lucas, William E. Knox, R. Hughes and others, Rev. R. Hughes being in charge in 1900. Other pastors at the close of the century were Edward Evans of Camden, W. C. Ranney of Elbridge, H. A. Jump of Hamilton, W. F. Kettle of Homer, W. E. Griffis of Ithaca, J. L. Keedy of Lysander, Thomas Bell of Moravia and W. T. Sutherland of Oxford.

Last among the leading denominations, in so far as numbers are concerned, was the Baptist Church, which took an active rôle in the religious life of Central New York from the first. Although each society was an independent unit, associations for fellowship were formed though they exercised only advisory power over their constituents. By 1834 the following associations existed in Central New York: Black River, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego. At that time there were 157 church buildings, 134 pastors and 17,862 communicants. Oneida alone had twenty-six churches, twenty-five pastors, and 2730 members, and Cortland had twenty-three churches, eighteen pastors and 3200 members. By 1860 the number of edifices had dropped to 134, of which thirty-one were in Chenango, twenty-eight in Oneida, and eighteen each in Onondaga and Cayuga. The Federal Census of 1890 showed a total of 140 church buildings, twenty-seven of which were in Oneida, twenty-five in Chenango, twenty-four in Onondaga and twenty in Cayuga. The total number of communicants was 17,338, of whom 19,807 were in Onondaga, 17,904 in Oneida and 7509 in Cayuga.

In Syracuse the oldest church was the First Baptist, organized in 1821, though services had been held in that city and neighboring Salina much earlier. Reverend J. G. Stearns was the first pastor and he was followed by Nathaniel J. Gilbert, who was instrumental in the erection of the first edifice. A new church was constructed in 1848 and when this was destroyed by fire a brick building was erected in 1860. Some of the pastors of this church were Stephen Wilkins, John Blain, Robert R. Raymond, E. W. Mundy, H. W. Sherwood and Thomas J. Villiers, who was in charge in 1900. Other Baptist churches in the city were the Central, Immanuel, Delaware, Fourth, First German and Bethany Colored. Prominent pastors were George E. Stevens, Louis Gebhardt, B. R. Smith and S. T. Ford. The First Baptist Church in Utica was formed in 1801, an edifice being erected five years later. Most of its founders were Welsh. In 1819 the Second (Broad) Baptist Church was founded and, during the 1830s, there came the Ebenezer and Bleecker Street Churches. Prominent Baptist pastors of Utica have been David Griffiths, John C. Harrison, Horatio N. Loring, Thomas O. Lincoln and Daniel G. Corey.

Among the other Protestant communions was the Universalist, with thirty-two churches and 1382 members in 1900. One of the earliest Universalist societies was that which started in Onondaga in 1817. Reverend Aaron A. Thayer was its pastor in 1860 and under his direction a church building was erected and the "First Universalist Society of Syracuse" was admitted to the fellowship of the Cayuga Association. Financial difficulties dogged the steps of this society for some time and it was not until the advent of the Reverend Frederick W. Betts that things took a turn for the better. The record of Rev. Mr. Betts was an enviable one as he not only revitalized the society and encouraged the erection of a new church building in 1905, but became one of the most active and public spirited citizens in the community. Dr. Betts was President of the New York State Convention of Universalists, twelve years trustee of the General Convention, and a trustee of the Theological School at St. Lawrence University.

Finally, no treatment of religious life in Central New York would be complete without a reference to the Reverend Samuel Joseph May of Syracuse. Born in Boston, during the late eighteenth century, Mr. May became pastor of the First Unitarian Church of Syracuse in 1846. For over twenty years he labored in season and out of season for the advancement of his beloved flock and, when failing health forced his retirement in 1868, the Church of the Messiah was admittedly one of the most influential in the city. May was also active in all local charitable and humanitarian activities, and for many years was prominent in the Board of Education of which he was president for a time. His interest in temperance, abolition, peace, woman's rights and the like made him a national figure and his reputation as an orator extended far and wide. Probably there were other pastors within Central New York that equalled him but most certainly there was none that excelled. And as far as Onondaga was concerned, Samuel J. May has been the most outstanding divine. A handsome church, known as the May Memorial, erected in 1885 on James Street, stands as a living monument to this truly great pastor and friend of man.



CHAPTER IX  
EARLY REFORMING ACTIVITIES



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## CHAPTER IX

### *Early Reforming Activities*

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**B**ENEVOLENT, humane and religious societies began to be formed in considerable number during the eighteen twenties.

Prior to this date many such organizations, as was shown in the previous volume, had made their appearance though it was not until Central New York had passed from the frontier stage that definite progress took place. In general, the constitutions of these societies sought to enlist the support of all peoples, regardless of creed or political connection. Basically, however, the driving force and spirit behind all of these noble undertakings was within the organized churches. Often enough religious differences were forgotten and members of various faiths willingly coöperated in some reforming movement. More frequently, however, most of the creeds maintained separate organizations for objects that were common to all. In the missionary field, for example, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, formed in 1809, was chiefly controlled by the Congregational and New School Presbyterian societies. Numerous Bible, tract and temperance organizations existed within different faiths. Although this separatist attitude can easily be understood, and possibly justified, the fact remains there was much duplication of effort, unnecessary expenditure of funds and less in the way of positive results. On the other hand much was accomplished that was decidedly worth while. And hundreds of individuals flocked to the annual "Anniversary Week" meetings, usually held at New York City where they enthusiastically listened to long-winded reports and speeches and laid plans for renewed effort and activity.



One of the earliest of the reforming societies was the American Bible Society, founded in 1809. Its object was to publish and distribute the Bible without any special comment or pleading. The Word of God was to be propagated; denominational interpretation of the Scriptures was not allowed. Generally, the membership of this organization ignored religious lines though the Baptist and Episcopal Churches maintained their own Bible Societies. Many individual communicants of these two faiths, however, were ardent members of the American Bible Society. Auxiliaries to the parent organization were formed in all parts of the country in the course of time. Within Central New York one finds a branch established in Cayuga County in 1817, and in Chenango in 1826. Cortland County had such a group in 1816, as did Madison; Oneida had one in 1817, and Tompkins one in 1828. In addition, there were several local units such as the Welsh Bible Society of Rome, formed in 1855. The total amount of money raised by these groups up to 1858 amounted to over fifty thousand dollars. During the early years of the American Bible Society's life, the income received was quite low, only forty-one thousand dollars had been raised by 1820 from all branches throughout the entire country. By 1848 it stood at over a quarter of a million. It may, therefore, be concluded that the parent society by that date had by no means exhausted its field of operation.

The excessive cost of printing a Bible on fairly good paper and in readable type frequently discouraged some individuals who otherwise would have been quite willing to help. This gave rise to the suggestion that short essays and discourses on biblical, moral and religious topics might well supplement the distribution of the Bible and thus gain the same end, namely, to make mankind godly, sober and wise. Steps in this direction were taken as early as 1812 with the formation of the New York Religious Tract Society, which soon had many branches throughout the counties. Later, in 1825, the American Tract Society was founded and in a short time auxiliaries, county and local, appeared throughout Central New York and the entire State. Supporters of this movement were most zealous in their undertakings. At Peterboro, the eccentric land baron, Peter Smith, always carried with him, on his travels from one holding to another, bountiful supplies of these tracts. "According to Frothingham," the author of the life of Gerrit Smith,

Peter Smith "signalized his arrival in a village by posting placards on the fenceposts, calling attention to 'Eternity,' and by blowing a horn which he seems to have thought was suggestive of the angel Gabriel's trumpet." Others, like Rev. Samuel J. May of Syracuse,



CIRCLE OF ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SYRACUSE

made it a point to board incoming trains and with a smile and a pleasing word to drop tracts on the laps of passengers. There were tracts for every occasion, incident or sin. Should one encounter a drunkard, there was the tract ready on the "Effects of Ardent Spirits." Foul language was met by an essay on "Profane Swearing." Special essays were prepared for children and women, while others were drafted for the unfortunate colored population. Women were taught to be discreet about their dress and deportment; colored folk were urged to be patient; while children were instructed to obey their elders and remain cold to the temptations of the devil.



Then there was the American Home Missionary Society, formed in 1826 for the purpose of supporting the ministry of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches throughout the Nation, especially in communities that otherwise could not afford to maintain a church or rector. The American Sunday School Union, founded in 1828, sought to encourage the organization of Sunday Schools and of providing them with tracts, books and the like. Within New York State, the central office of this society was located at Utica, with a western agency at Geneva. Bibles and tracts, calculated to elevate the tone and life of seamen on the oceans, lakes, rivers and canals, were fostered by the American Seamen's Friend Society, formed in 1828. Similar in nature was the American Bethel Society whose little magazine, the *Bethel Flag*, was always to be found where mariners and seamen gathered. Other humanitarian organizations included the Young Men's Christian Associations, which maintained libraries, study rooms and lectures in most cities, the Young Men's Associations, formed at Utica in 1837, and the Central American Education Society founded to aid young men entering the ministry. In this respect most of the religious groups had their own organizations which, in one or two cases, led to the founding of theological schools, such as that at Auburn, concerning which more will appear in a later chapter.

More outstanding, in the sense that they challenged public opinion and gave rise to considerable discussion, and in some quarters to stout opposition, were the National Compensating Emancipation Society, the American Colonization Society, the American Anti-Slavery Society and the Temperance Society. Comment on those relating to slavery is reserved for a later chapter. Another prominent organization was the American Peace Society. Opposition to war made its appearance in America at an early date as may be seen from an examination of the writings and lives of men like William Penn, Anthony Benezet, Benjamin Franklin and others. And in New York City, in 1809, David Low Dodge published a peace tract entitled, *The Mediator's Kingdom, Not of this World*. Dodge's work attracted considerable attention and led to the formation of the New York Peace Society in 1815, while in New England there were formed a number of state and local peace organizations. News of these activities soon spread up the Hudson and out into Central New York where Rev. Seth



Smith founded, in 1817, the Cayuga Peace Society. The following year it was reported that a similar unit had been established in Chenango County.

During the two decades that followed, and under the guiding hand of the American Peace Society, formed in 1828, other peace groups were planted at Auburn, Utica, Rome and Whitesboro. Rev. M. L. Perrine of Auburn and Alvan Stewart of Utica were most active in their support of this movement which aimed at the elimination of war through education, arbitration of international disputes, and the establishment of a World Court and a Congress of Nations. Encouraged by the results obtained in Central New York, the American Peace Society sent Henry C. Wright, a fiery speaker, into this area and in a short time he succeeded in arousing considerable interest. Among those who became converted to this cause was Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, who expressed his enthusiasm by contributing five hundred dollars to the national organization in 1838. The following year he became one of the vice-presidents of this society.

Now, the American Peace Society up to this time had denounced only offensive war—a position that appeared quite weak and silly to more radically inclined members. Most of the latter wanted the society to condemn defensive war, while there was a small but active group that was pledged to the notion of non-resistance. A non-resister, therefore, was one who not only would abolish all war between nations but would also outlaw all civil strife and would refuse to resist evil by force on any and all occasions. Among those who held these advanced views were William Lloyd Garrison and Henry C. Wright of Boston, John H. Noyes of the Oneida Community, and many others. And while they applauded the action of the American Peace Society in 1838 in its denunciation of all war—defensive as well as offensive—they showed their utter contempt for the parent society by establishing late in the same year the New England Non-Resistance Society. In general, public opinion seems to have been quite hostile to this new organization; the *New York Observer*, for example, styled it “Religious Jacobinism Run Mad.”

On the other hand some sympathy was expressed in up-state villages and cities like Peterboro, Utica and Syracuse. Anxious to capitalize upon this show of interest, the officers of the Non-

Resistance Society hurried lengthy appeals to Gerrit Smith and others. Henry C. Wright personally led the attack and in a series of most tactful letters, well calculated to influence the mind of Smith who "loved the Lord Jesus," gained from Smith a check for a hundred dollars. Coupled with it went an invitation for



MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE

Wright to visit Peterboro as Smith was most anxious to know "the way of the Lord." Wright hurried out through the Mohawk Valley and Central New York scattering non-resistance tracts here and there. At Canastota he was graciously received by one of Smith's servants who drove him up over the hills and ox-bow turns to quiet and peaceful little Peterboro. Here, within the sanctuary of Smith's home, the two had many an earnest discussion over princes, rulers, governments and men, while dear Mrs. Smith sat near eagerly drinking in the words of these two men. Reports of their conversations soon reached Boston and the hearts of the radical peace men were gladdened. In spite of all Wright's most



persuasive appeals, Smith could not be moved to take the fearful step of joining the new society. Nor did he yield when he read Edmund Quincy's well-selected letter. "We have all known," Quincy wrote from Boston, "that it would be in some sort a trial to you, that even the degree of countenance which your presence would give to the madmen who would turn the world upside down, without the giving in of your adherence to them, would take away a large slice of the caste which you have left yourself."

To what extent Smith allowed the fear of public disapproval to influence him is not known, though it is clear that he honestly doubted the position taken by the non-resisters of having nothing to do with existing governments. It may also be that the criticism of non-resistance by some of his closest friends may have shaken his faith in Wright's philosophy. Beriah Green, for example, deluged Smith with appeals to have nothing to do with the "non-resistant sect." And so it came to pass that while Smith continued to flirt with non-resistance he finally decided to keep company with the "wise and good" within the American Peace Society.

Shortly thereafter William Ladd, the "apostle of peace," toured throughout Central and Western New York, speaking before various audiences at Syracuse, Peterboro, Utica, Auburn, and points as far west as Buffalo. There can be little doubt but that Ladd's efforts were well worth while and that he did much to quicken popular interest in Central New York for peace and a Congress of Nations. An examination of the local papers during the early 1840s shows an increased amount of attention given to this reforming movement which from the first had the wholehearted support of the Quakers. In the library of the Skaneateles Friends, for example, copies of the early peace tracts and magazines were found only a few years ago. Close upon the heels of Ladd's grand tour came the "Learned Blacksmith," Elihu Burritt of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Rev. Samuel J. May, a member of both the American Peace and New England Non-Resistance Societies.

May's arrival in Central New York was permanent in nature as he became the resident pastor of the Unitarian Church at Syracuse. Utilizing the tolerant and liberal pulpit of that faith, May soon instilled such a love for peace among his congregation, which included such prominent families as the Wilkinsons and Putnams, that he was able to launch a vigorous campaign against war



throughout Onondaga County. Local papers noticed his efforts and in some cases inserted pertinent peace material from the pen of such advocates as Burritt, Ladd and Garrison. Nor was this crusade silenced as the shadow of a Mexican war hovered over the Nation in the spring of 1846. On the other hand considerably more attention and support was given by the community to what was called a just conflict. "We must relieve Mexico," so it was announced, "from the curse of military despots." And when in May, 1846, a state of war was declared by Congress there was great rejoicing from the local patriots. This tumult, however, did not drown the sharp protests which arose from the peace group. The war party was dismayed by these unpatriotic utterances and James Kinney, editor of the Syracuse *Daily Star*, declared, "We are at a loss to account for the very strange sentiments we find in our citizens . . . in reference to the outrages committed against the United States by Mexico . . . There is a disposition . . . to condemn the United States and to justify Mexico." Other editorials followed in rapid succession and May and his band were ridiculed with names like "Tory," and "Traitor."

In answer to his critics May replied, "Much rather would I be called a Tory than a soldier—a butcher of men. Much rather would I be called a traitor to my country than a traitor to mankind . . . War is the greatest of human crimes, for it includes all others." Kinney's followers saw red and on June 4, 1846, a war meeting was held for the adoption of resolutions suitable and consistent with national honor and policy. Such a meeting was held and the wrath of the righteous was poured upon those who, it was said, had disgraced the fair name of Syracuse. The peace group, not to be outdone, countered by calling a meeting of the "Friends of Peace." More than a hundred names were affixed to this call—names like that of Charles B. Sedgwick, prominent city attorney, and Henry Agnew, one-time postmaster. Syracuse, and particularly Kinney's party, was astonished and prepared to blast the efforts of the peace group. Hearing of this intended opposition, I. S. Cobb, C. B. Sedgwick, George Maynard, J. W. North and Hiram Putnam, committee on arrangements for the peace meeting, redoubled their efforts.

On the evening of June 18th the concert room of the Empire Hotel was crowded with noise and confusion. Hiram Putnam, the

chairman, banged on the table for several minutes before he could officially open the peace meeting. But before any anti-war resolution could be introduced a motion was made favoring a vigorous prosecution of the war. Soon the "warites" were in control. Whereupon Rev. Mr. May arose and in a clear and determined voice reprimanded those who had disrupted the meeting. He realized, however, the utter futility of further contest and bade those kindly disposed to retire with him to the Congregational Church. Immediately an exodus began, but the noise and tumult that had beset the peace advocates within the hall now dogged their steps outside. A disorderly crowd, swollen by a few soldiers who chanced to be in Syracuse, pursued May's band. Jeers, taunts and a few sticks were thrown at the latter by an enraged mob. And when, finally, the peace group locked the church doors, the rioters proceeded to throw stones and even tried to fire the building. Disturbed but not dismayed, May's group went forward with their meeting. Resolutions calling for the immediate restoration of peace and the withdrawal of troops from Mexico were speedily passed. But none of these appeared in the local papers.

Although astonished at this form of censorship the peace advocates were greatly disturbed over the implied approval given by the press of the rioters' actions. And when Charles A. Wheaton, one of Syracuse's most respected citizens, took the editors to task for their conduct, the latter fell back upon a series of worthless excuses and intimated that had there been no unpatriotic gathering no riot would have taken place. At the same time the papers continued to heap insult and abuse upon the peace advocates—to which no reply was given. Gradually public interest subsided and with that the entire matter was dropped. May deeply regretted the affair, yet he did not hesitate to approve of the stand he and others had taken. Syracuse, moreover, in his eyes, had gone on record as having opposed the war. No other city in all America—not even Boston, the home of the American Peace Society—had taken so bold a stand. Many communities had protested against war before the outbreak of hostilities, though none of these, it is believed, excepting Syracuse raised its voice after the conflict had started. And this voice was chiefly the voice of Samuel Joseph May. Without his leadership there probably would have been no anti-war meeting at the Empire Hotel. And in the New York State Building

of the World's Fair of 1939 there stood a bust of this dauntless Christian soldier—a belated recognition of his splendid work for humanity.

With the return of peace in 1848, public opinion in Syracuse listened more attentively to May's peace philosophy. Valuable aid came in the visit of Elihu Burritt in the winter of 1849 and again in February of the next year. Burritt's primary motive in coming to Syracuse and neighboring villages was to arouse interest in the forthcoming world peace conference which was to be held at Frankfurt, Germany. To aid in this undertaking, Burritt issued a call for a New York Peace Conference to be convened at Albany in 1850. Syracuse responded to this call and under the leadership of May a local meeting was held at Market Hall at which Dr. H. Hoyt, Joel Owens, H. P. Snow, Oliver Teall and May were chosen to represent the city at the Albany gathering. May was present at this meeting and on his return addressed a large audience at the City Hall. And so the first half of the nineteenth century closed with the peace standards flying high and proudly throughout Central New York.

Among the various other reforming movements that interested peace advocates was the temperance crusade. War, it was said, did much to incite an urge to drink. Naturally, therefore, many enemies of war became stout protagonists of temperance. Individual opposition to the evils of drink existed long before an organized effort demonstrated itself. Methodists, Quakers, Baptists—in fact all creeds and faiths—viewed liquor as “contraband articles to the pure laws of the Gospel.” It remained, however, for Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia to arouse the public to the physical and bodily effects of alcohol, in his celebrated tract, *Inquiry Into the Effects of Ardent Spirits on the Human Mind and Body*. This essay was widely read and did much to stimulate thought and action. The earliest known temperance society to be founded, as a result of this continued agitation, was that at Moreau, New York, in April, 1808, under the leadership of Dr. B. J. Clark. Similar interest soon manifested itself in New England where there was formed, in 1813, the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance. Neither of these groups advocated complete abstinence and while their efforts were valuable, it was believed by many at that time that nothing worth while could be accomplished until



absolute abstinence was insisted upon and practiced. A gesture in this direction was taken in 1826 with the establishment of the American Society for the Promotion of Temperance. Nevertheless, neither it nor any of its many branches, of which there were some in Central New York, openly advocated complete abstinence though its members were allowed to take this high ground if desired.

Definite expression of this more radical idea did appear in the constitutions of several societies formed in New York during the course of the next few years. Most important were the efforts of a group at Hector, once within Onondaga County, which in 1826 elected to allow its members to take one of two pledges. One of these called for abstinence from distilled spirits, the other for abstinence from *all intoxicating liquor*. In recording the attitude of the members, the secretary of the society placed a "T" before the names of those who signed the extreme pledge. And for this reason, so tradition has it, those who were so marked became known as "T-Totalers." Other societies in time likewise adopted this practice. Moreover, total abstinence was the position held by E. C. Delevan and Benjamin Joy who, along with others, founded the New York State Temperance Society in 1829.

One of the first converts to this organization was Gerrit Smith, who warmly endorsed the tracts distributed by the society favoring total abstinence. On the other hand, due probably to the presence of a conservative element within the organization, the constitution of the society was not couched in such terms. Delevan, Joy, Smith and others, however, made total abstinence an issue at the Utica meeting of the society in 1833. A resolution commending the same was passed at this gathering but it was not required as a qualification for membership in the society. A stronger position was taken in 1834 and in the next year the *Temperance Recorder*, the organ of the State Society, announced that hereafter its columns would advocate complete abstinence. Later, in the same year, this position was endorsed at the annual meeting of the society at Buffalo.

In the meantime county and local temperance groups had been formed throughout Central New York. In Oneida, Henry Huntington of Rome, Nicholas Devereaux of Utica, Benjamin Johnson, President S. E. Dwight of Hamilton College, David Wager, I. C. Baker, Horatio Seymour, W. C. Noyes, W. S. Wetmore and F. W. Bingham were most active in promoting temperance. G. P.

Hoyt, S. P. Lyman, Alexander Seymour, Alvan Stewart, Rev. D. Skinner and Amos Woodworth, all of Oneida, were ardent temperance advocates. In Syracuse, men like Huntington Fitch, G. Castle, H. S. Conde, John Bacon and L. F. Ward promoted this movement, while in Cayuga there were Abijah Fitch and a



EAST PARK, GANSEVOORT MONUMENT AND COURT HOUSE, ROME

group who formed in 1832 the Cato and Ira Temperance Society. Tompkins County was represented by men like George Woodruff, Justus Slater, G. G. Freer and O. C. Comstock, and Cortland by Jonathan E. Ware, David Mathews, E. S. Hulbert and Joseph S. Mitchell. In Madison County, there were Barack Beckwith of Cazenovia, Gerrit Smith of Peterboro and others like Andrew Yates, Nathaniel Kendrick and Rev. Samuel T. Mills.

Under the direction of these gentlemen, assisted at times by agents sent out from Albany, a frontal attack was made upon intemperance, dramshops and distilleries. The Madison County Society for example, in 1835, severely condemned the distilleries of



Eaton and Cazenovia and declared that it was a sin for anyone to provide these plants with grain. Petitions, moreover, were freely circulated throughout this and the other counties urging individuals to sign the pledge and while we have no definite statistics as to the number of temperance advocates in Central New York at that time, still there must have been a goodly number. The effect of this widespread enthusiasm was to be seen in the closing down of some distilleries and in the refusal of many tavern keepers to sell liquor. Every city and village, without exception, had at least one temperance house. One of these at Peterboro was advertised in this manner:

PETERBORO HOTEL

CLEANLINESS; QUIET; COMFORT

1. No intoxicating liquors.
2. Persons, so unfortunate as to use tobacco, are requested to observe the spit-boxes.
3. The traveller is assured, that he must not be disturbed by dancing parties; and that this House shall not, like many a village tavern, be the resort of the ungoverned and idle boys.
4. The Office is closed on Sunday.

Early in the 1840s the temperance movement gained considerable impetus from the formation of the Washington Temperance Society, founded at Baltimore. Its original members consisted largely of reformed inebriates and under their direction hundreds of branches were planted in all parts of the State. Many of these were in Central New York as were the allied organizations known as the Martha Washington Societies. None of these lasted very long and by 1845 the Washington Movement was almost a thing of the past. Other groups also appeared, like the Cold Water Armies, the Sons of Temperance, the Rechabites, Cadets of Temperance, Social Circles and the Daughters of Samaria. In some instances these groups clothed their organizations with secret rituals, passwords and hand grips. Notices of their meetings are legion in the papers of Utica, Auburn, Norwich, Syracuse and Ithaca, and it is generally believed by students of the movement that much was accomplished by these societies.



All of these groups sought to increase their influence by propaganda, education, testimony of reformed drunkards, and by petitioning the State Legislature to pass suitable resolutions and laws. By 1841 public sentiment reached such a height that a select committee of the legislature reported favorably upon the question of local option. Not until 1846, however, was the issue brought before the electorate, New York City excepted. The result of this vote was favorable to local option in 528 out of 856 towns throughout the State, including many within Central New York. It is unfortunate that the Bureau of Elections at Albany does not have the precise statement of this vote so that the showing of the towns in Central New York might be recorded. It is known, however, that in Onondaga County, Pompey was the only town to vote against local option. The victory, however, was shortlived, as the State Legislature repealed the former law in 1847. Seven years later a prohibition act was passed which Governor Seymour vetoed as unconstitutional. He was denounced from the pulpit and in the press, and was defeated for reelection by Myron H. Clark who ran on a fusion ticket with prohibition as the main issue. By this time prohibition had become a political issue, concerning which comment will appear in another chapter.

Among the temperance advocates there were many women, all of whom had ample reason to be interested in this movement. Home life, the care of the children and a host of other problems were intimately related to the question of drink. A goodly number of them, however, considered temperance but one aspect of a much more significant problem—namely that of women's rights. Nor were they alone in their undertaking as many men, notably Gerrit Smith and Rev. Samuel J. May, gave their wholehearted support to this movement. Smith dug deep into his pocket to help finance some of the earlier undertakings in Central New York and frequently raised his voice in defense of women's rights. May's assistance was evidenced by sermons and addresses, in one of which he declared that women could not expect "to have their wrongs fully redressed until they themselves had a voice and a hand in the enactment and administration of the laws." Sentiment of this type was expressed elsewhere and as early as 1836 the legislature of the State was petitioned to remove certain common law disabilities against women and to give them equal rights. For the next twelve years a number

of such memorials were introduced to grant women these rights. None of these gained much consideration until after the general constitutional convention of 1846 at which time sober thinkers gave more attention to the position of women than they had previously done. As a result of this quickening of thought and interest, the New York State Legislature in 1848, under the leadership of John Fine, passed a law which greatly encouraged those who had advocated women's rights. According to this measure, the property of a married woman was protected against any and all claims of her husband. Nor could he assume any control over the same or use it to meet any debts or obligations that he had contracted. In passing this law, New York became the first state to recognize equal rights of married women in property.

Among the women of New York who had sponsored this movement special recognition should be accorded to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, cousin to Gerrit Smith, Susan B. Anthony, Martha C. Wright and Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Gerrit Smith. The passage of Judge Fine's law encouraged them to hope that better days were in store. Accordingly, a number of women throughout Central New York gathered at Seneca Falls in July, 1848, and discussed the entire problem. Later in the same month a state-wide convention was held at this same place at which a number of resolutions were passed endorsing women's rights. In general, public opinion as expressed by the press and pulpit, was not favorable to the movement. Considerable ridicule and abuse, moreover, was heaped upon these women and the few men who dared to stand up and be counted. Undaunted by these attacks, the advocates of women's rights held other meetings throughout the State, such as those at Rochester, Utica and Syracuse, and continued to agitate by word and deed.

Present as a spectator at the Seneca Falls meeting in 1848 was Amelia Jenks Bloomer who, the following year, started the *Lily*, possibly the first journal published by a woman. For six years it urged reforms in education, marriage laws and advocated woman suffrage. Mrs. Stanton contributed under the name of "Sunflower." Although ardent in temperance and suffrage reform, Mrs. Bloomer's name is associated with dress reform. Wearing an ordinary bodice, short skirt and full trousers, ridiculed by the press as "bloomers,"

she drew large crowds to her lectures. Although Mrs. Bloomer moved from New York to Iowa, her dress reform was adopted by not a few women, among the first being Elizabeth Smith and Mrs. Stanton. In time this form of attire was modified and when it was seen that it did their cause little good was discontinued entirely. The influence of the "bloomers," however, in the women's rights movement should not be ignored. In the meantime the suffragettes continued to voice their demands and before long had made them a political issue that party leaders could not evade. Concerning these activities comment will be made in a later chapter.



## CHAPTER X

### COMMUNAL AND SECRET SOCIETIES



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## CHAPTER X

### *Communal and Secret Societies*

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PARALLELING the organized reforming activities of the nineteenth century were the communal and secret societies. In some instances the latter were off-shoots or by-products of the former; in other cases they were the result of economic or religious factors. Unfortunately, our sources of information concerning these more peculiar efforts are by no means as complete as might be desired. In part this was due to the ephemeral nature of the activity which afforded no opportunity for the collection and preservation of historical materials. Again, in other cases, a deliberate policy of concealment and possible destruction of necessary sources has left the historian much in the dark. Finally, the general apathy of the public toward some of these movements caused the newspapers to give but little space to their rise, fall and ultimate extinction. Nonetheless they represent one of the most interesting and fascinating aspects of the nineteenth century life and deserve some consideration in this volume.

Some twenty miles to the west of Syracuse is the village of Skaneateles, beautifully situated on a lake bearing the same name and now quite famous for its celebrated dining hall known as "Krebs." Among the residents of this village, early in the last century, were John A. Collins and Quincy A. Johnson. These two gentlemen, together with David Cogswell and Joseph Savage of Syracuse, and Darius Stone of Sennett, appear to have dreamed strange dreams during the summer of 1843. Skaneateles, with its attractive woodlawn groves and vales, was an ideal place for dreamers. Moreover, it housed a goodly number of Friends, whose



attitudes and philosophies fairly hung over the village like the fogs that arise from Skaneateles Lake. Through this atmosphere, heavily saturated with Indian lore, roamed John A. Collins, who gossip said was an ex-clergyman who had "relapsed into socialism and infidelity." In all probability, Collins had heard of Robert Owen's socialistic adventure at New Harmony, Indiana, as well as the Brook Farm Experiment in New England. Possibly, he was also familiar with the views of the French thinker, Charles Fourier. In any event, Collins was not an ignorant and uninformed individual, whatever else may be said about him. At the same time he became wildly excited about socialism and communism, and toured the neighboring towns lecturing on his pet ideas. Soon his talks bore fruit and in March, 1843, he gathered about him a small but earnest band of faithful followers. Under the stimulus of this dynamic leader there was launched at Skaneateles an enterprise known as "Community Place." Its fame soon spread beyond the confines of Onondaga County and before long Nathaniel Randall and Patten Davis of Vermont, Sarah Pugh, a prominent Friend of Philadelphia, and others became interested in the experiment. And why not? Had not Collins preached about the evils of war, the values to be gained from coöperative living, and universal brotherhood, tenets quite dear to the reformers of the 1830s and 1840s?

Now, one of the most outstanding reformers of this period was the Reverend Samuel Joseph May, then living in New England but soon to become the Unitarian pastor of the Church of the Messiah at Syracuse. Exactly how May heard of Community Place is not known. Possibly, he encountered it during the course of his travels in Central New York in the summer of 1843. Or he may have been approached directly by Collins himself. In any event, May became quite interested in the affair and expressed a willingness to aid the same. Others did likewise. The outcome of these various efforts may be seen in a quit claim deed of Onondaga County, dated November 1, 1843. According to this deed, Cogswell, Savage, Stone, Randall, Davis, May and Sarah Pugh purchased, for fifteen thousand dollars, a piece of property, south of Skaneateles Falls, owned by Collins and Johnson. The property consisted of some three hundred acres of farm land, a saw mill, a small chair factory, and a large gray stone farm house which became the community center.

May and his friends appear in this deed as the legal trustees of Community Place. Those already living on this land were privileged to remain, it being their duty to improve, cultivate and enjoy the same "in common henceforth and forever." Evidently, the founders of the movement were thinking in terms that were everlasting. Any of the trustees, moreover, might move to Community Place and live there as a member of the society. Far more significant was the provision that "all persons upon the globe" might join in this grand adventure to establish and maintain a free community upon the "principles of a common brotherhood of the race of man." "The earth and its products," it was declared, "are the common property of the human race and no one has any right to any exclusive ownership of the soil or its products." Private property was condemned and outlawed as an evil as well as all government that was founded upon force. All buying and selling, except as compelled by necessity, was strictly forbidden. No sectarianism or party strife was to be tolerated. The use of physical force was to have no standing; men being induced to labor for the common good of all by the driving spirit and mind of the community. The doctrine of eternal rewards and punishments was emphatically denied.

Upon such a foundation did Community Place have its foundations. Spurred on by the enthusiastic leadership of Collins, who seems to have remained as general manager and guardian angel of the undertaking, the society at first prospered. The little chair factory hummed and the soil brought forth good fruit. But soon seeds of unrest were sown as Collins began to stand for even more extreme and debatable notions. It appears that he publicly denounced the existence of God and argued openly for the abandonment of all marriage services. At least this was what his enemies reported. Small wonder that those outside of the Community began to style the place as "No God." Torn by internal dissension and damned by conservative and pious opinion outside, Community Place declined and ultimately expired in 1846. Collins, so it was said, always maintained that its failure was due to the inability of the members to grasp the eternal truths of life as expounded by him. Community Place, he said, was far too advanced for the age. The death of the undertaking was hailed with much satisfaction throughout Onondaga County and the Syracuse papers had little

to say that was complimentary to the efforts of its founder. The entire affair, however, is shrouded with much uncertainty and mystery. May's diary and letters are strangely silent about the entire episode.

Equally mysterious is the story of William Morgan who, pinched by poverty and disturbed over the treatment he had received from his fellow Masons of Batavia, conceived the idea of publishing an expose of Masonry in the hope of recouping his fallen fortunes. Disaster dogged his steps and, after a series of misfortunes, he was lodged in jail on the charge of petty larceny. Late Monday night, September 11, 1826, he was released from custody and, according to the version of the Batavia Masons, was taken, more or less with his own consent, to Fort Niagara. Here he remained for a short time following which he crossed over into Canada and was never seen again. Knowing of Morgan's plans to expose Masonry, public opinion opened a fierce and uncompromising attack upon the Masonic Fraternity and all secret societies in general. Secrecy, it was claimed in loud and uncertain tones, was both anti-Christian and un-American, and poor Morgan had paid a high price for the rights of free speech and a free press. And when, later, a badly decomposed body of a man was discovered north of Albion, the anti-Masons raised the cry of murder. Morgan's wife solemnly asserted the dead man to be her former husband, but so did Mrs. Timothy Munroe of Upper Canada, and to this day no one knows who was right.

In the minds of the anti-Masons, however, there was no doubt and a vicious, slashing attack was launched against this secret order. By the spring of 1828 the movement had reached such heights that an Anti-Masonic Party came into being. Central New York was visibly shaken by the feud and in the political campaigns of 1828 and 1831 the anti-Masonic issue became the subject of much contention. Several newspapers within this area avowedly supported the anti-Masons and a state-wide convention of the Anti-Masonic Party was held at Utica in 1831. By the fall elections, however, the movement had largely spent its strength and the actual vote, as is shown in another chapter, was by no means impressive. During the course of the next few years most of the anti-Masons drifted into the National Republican Party and with that the Morgan affair came to an end.



The sentiment against secrecy and un-American institutions continued to bob up throughout the remainder of the century. The political activities of the Native Americans against foreigners and Roman Catholics illustrates the presence of this sentiment. Following the close of the Civil War, the agitation against the Masons was revived in Ohio, New England and Central New York. Gerrit Smith of Peterboro declared that secret societies were among his "abominations" and he expressed his views in an article in the *American Baptist*. Soon meetings and conventions were held in various parts of the country, one of these being at Syracuse in November, 1870. This gathering had been summoned by the following appeal: "We, citizens of the State of New York, witnessing the great and growing influence of secret societies, and believing them to be exclusive, partial and anti-republican, despotic in form of government, pernicious in the propagation of kingly titles, and opposed to a free government like ours; practicing semi-religious and semi-barbarious ceremonies; casting out the true religion with the false . . . and the members of the fraternity bound by the most solemn obligations to assist each other, so that even in the civil courts the ends of justice are perverted, and equity fails to receive her due." Therefore, as Dr. Harlow states in his life of Gerrit Smith, "good citizens were summoned in the interests of 'free government, untrammelled justice and Christian civilization' to meet in convention for the purpose of destroying the monster."

Out of this convention came a New York State Association opposed to all secret societies, Gerrit Smith being chosen the first president, a position he also held in the Madison County Anti-secret Society. Smith, however, never played an important rôle in this movement which before long had run its course and ultimately disappeared. Precisely what Smith and others thought of college secret fraternities is not known, but one may be certain that their condemnation fell upon these organizations as well as upon the Masons. Greek-letter secret societies had existed since about 1825 and in many of the eastern colleges the administrations and faculties were sorely grieved by their presence. Not only were they frowned upon because of their secrecy, but for their disorderly practices. Generally speaking, these societies weathered the storm and, taking upon themselves a national organization, planted chapters in many of the colleges throughout the country. Opposition on the part of

certain students, however, continued and at Williams College an anti-secret society known as the Social Fraternity developed. Similar sentiment appeared on other campuses and in 1847 a Social Fraternity was started at Hamilton College. By this time these kindred organizations had formed themselves into an Anti-Secret Confedera-



THE CHAPEL, MASONIC HOME, UTICA

tion and in 1864 took the name of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity. Chapters of the latter were planted at Colgate in 1866, Cornell in 1869, and at Syracuse in 1874. The attitude of these societies may be illustrated by the motion passed at Hamilton on the occasion of the founding of the Social Fraternity. "Pure moral character and entire and conscientious opposition to Secret Societies" was declared necessary for membership. On the other hand the following selection from the *Cornell Era*, May 22, 1869, shows what the secret societies thought of their rival: "Glad are we to chronicle the occurrence of an event in the dull round of our college life—most glad and yet it is with a thought of sorrow, a feeling of



commiseration for the depravity of man that we record the advent of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity to Cornell University. Sorrow that upon the bright record of our great university has been written the name of this, of all detestable brands and clans the most detestable, an association with nothing save its badge to recommend it, a clique utterly anomalous, and without character."

Before the close of the century, the attitudes for and against secret fraternities in colleges had become quite mellow. Any criticism that existed was predicated upon grounds other than secrecy. Even Delta Upsilon altered its own position from anti- to non-secrecy, and in all other respects became comparable to the other societies such as Beta Theta Pi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Nu and a number of others that exist throughout the American college and university world.

Hardly had the anti-Masonic movement of the 1820s spent itself than Central New York was agitated by the teachings of William Miller, a country pastor of Washington County, New York. A careful study of the Bible convinced this divine that the Day of Judgment was near at hand. With mathematical precision Miller predicted that the year 1843 would witness the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. Many took him seriously and made preparation for the event, but 1843 came and went, and the good old world continued on its way. Five years later, or thereabouts, the Fox sisters at Hydesville, near Rochester, startled their neighbors by solemnly announcing that they had established communication with the dead. Through their psychic powers and through the medium of spirit rappings they had conversed with their beloved and departed friends. Soon the fame of the sisters passed beyond the limits of their village and in a short time spiritualism became quite the rage throughout Central New York and the entire State. "Circles" were established in many localities and the air was thick with messages from the dead. No less a man than Gerrit Smith of Peterboro paid some attention to the movement. Among his papers, preserved at the Syracuse University Library, may be found a small bundle of single sheets containing questions and answers supposedly acquired at some seance. And his brother, Peter S. Smith, in later life, repeatedly asserted that through the medium of Jeanne D'Arc he had been able to converse with his parents long since dead. In the face of this reaction it is



not surprising that others accepted the visions and teachings of Joseph Smith who, as the "prophet of a new dispensation," laid the foundations for the Mormon faith and church.

More significant in the annals of the Inland Empire was the founding and development of the Oneida Community, located on Oneida Creek in the town of Lenox, Madison County, and at Vernon in Oneida County. The father of this community was John Humphrey Noyes, one time resident of Poultney, Vermont. Noyes was a well-educated individual, the graduate of an eastern college, and well known in Vermont for his fiery religious teachings. Here he propounded, with some success, his views as to the second coming of Christ and of salvation from sin. According to Noyes, Christ's second coming was already an accomplished fact, having taken place, as stated in the Bible, in the year 70 A. D. Since then, the Kingdom of God—a spiritual kingdom—was a real thing and to that divine government all men and nations owed allegiance. Acceptance of this idea, Noyes held, would put men in a world from which in due time all sin might be eliminated. Right intent on man's part would soon lead man to perfectionism. Convinced of the truth of these divine concepts, Noyes fell, so it was reported, "into a deadly quarrel with the United States" over the latter's treatment of slaves, Indians and missionaries. Hence he felt compelled to prepare and sign "a declaration of independence" severing all connection with the government of the United States. Had that government been in tune with the Kingdom of God, Noyes would not have had to take this step. Later, at New York City, and during the winter of 1836 and 1837, Noyes and three others "pledged" life, fortune and honor for the overthrow of the wicked power that ruled the Nation.

With these thoughts in mind, Noyes called on William Lloyd Garrison early in 1837 at the latter's office in Boston. He found Garrison, Stanton and Whittier engaged in a warm dispute over some political matter. Very modestly, Noyes waited until they had finished and then introduced himself and his views. Garrison was delighted and spoke with "great interest of the *Perfectionist*, said his mind was heaving on the subject of holiness and the kingdom of heaven." No less pleased was Noyes himself, who stated that he found Garrison "ripe for the loyalty of heaven." Without doubt, Garrison had been deeply moved by the appeal of this

religious leader who already had declared Jesus Christ to be the rightful President of the United States. Noyes was quick to sense the advantage he had won and followed it up with a letter to Garrison in which he declared among other things that it was high time "for the abolitionists to abandon a government whose President



SAILBOAT REGATTA, SKANEATELES LAKE, VIEW FROM COUNTRY CLUB

had declared war upon them." Moreover, he called upon Garrison to set "anti-slavery in the sunshine" by making it "tributary to Holiness."

Noyes did not appeal in vain as Garrison was now firmly convinced that "total abstinence from sin in this life is not only commanded but necessarily obtainable." Human government, Garrison declared, was the result of "disobedience to the requirements of heaven" and in an issue of the *Liberator*, he wrote that the "no-government" theory meant "the perfect reign of Christ throughout the earth." Noyes' influence upon Garrison and in turn upon the anti-slavery movement was shown in the controversies



that raged within the anti-slavery societies. Hundreds of persons within Central New York split upon the question of no-government. "The wind of perfectionism," so wrote Elizur Wright, "has blown off the roof of judgment." Noyes, however, actually failed to enlist Garrison in his campaign for holiness and while the latter continued on his anti-slavery crusade, Noyes turned to his major project. Having other things in view, Noyes soon led a small but devoted band of followers to Oneida. Here—far removed from the contamination of earthly power—Noyes determined to build a home for the Godly and pure in heart.

Soon several imposing buildings were erected and the members settled down to the arduous task of gaining a living. Thanks to efficient and careful leadership the trials of the first few years were speedily eclipsed. Some added to the prosperity by laboring in the fields and orchards. Apples, plums and pears, together with a number of small fruits, were grown in great abundance and put down in the form of preserves for which the community soon acquired quite a reputation. Others devoted time to the manufacturing of satchels and bags. Then there were some who demonstrated unusual skill in the making of sewing silk and silk ribbons. Greater success attended the making of steel traps which were sold in large quantities throughout the west and northwest. Later, as will be shown in the next volume, greater attention was given to the manufacturing of silver goods, notably the well-known Community Plate.

Financially, the Oneida Community was a decided success and the reputation of its economic activities became national in scope. It was also well known for its communal life. Like the Community Place of Skaneateles, all property was held in common and the fruit of all activities equitably distributed among the members. Dissatisfaction, however, soon crept in among some of the members which, together with hostile criticism from without, finally led to the abandonment of the communal arrangement and in 1879 the Oneida Company, a joint stock company was established. Part of the criticism leveled at the Community arose from certain social practices followed by its members. J. H. Noyes himself explained these in his book, *History of American Socialisms*, but this only added fuel to the fire. Noyes' views as to marriage did not conform to those established by the State of New York and thousands of



individuals damned the "complex marriages" followed by the Community. Writing in 1872, Franklin B. Hough said that "its toleration is a standing disgrace to the county and town." Ultimately, "complex marriage" was discontinued and the settlement conformed to existing laws and usages. It should be recognized, however, that their earlier views and practices were predicated upon basic religious and sociological principles which its members sincerely believed in as being acceptable to God.

At no time, moreover, did the Community seek to force its ideas upon the outside world, and while critics repeatedly abused the members for their social practices, they had only the highest regard for their business abilities. They lived their own lives in a peaceful and honest way, and asked for no favors. They prided themselves upon the many advantages they possessed over others and took keen interest in promoting the educational and physical development of their children. In dress, they were neat and simple, though some found fault with the bloomer-like garments worn by the women. No one dared accuse the Community of intemperance, and smoking and profanity were strictly forbidden—a standard that few other villages could equal in all of Central New York. And when the routine of the day's work was over, all might assemble in a general recreational hall in the Mansion House where games, plays and other forms of entertainment were enjoyed. Moreover, there was a well-equipped and serviceable library which the author greatly admired and used with considerable profit a few years ago. External comforts were certainly much in evidence and while some might charge them with the destruction of sacred family ties, that in nowise seemed to alter their happiness. As further indication of their solidarity of interest and purpose reference might be made to the *Oneida Circular*, a weekly paper published at Community Place.



## CHAPTER XI

### ABOLITION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK





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## CHAPTER XI

### *Abolition in Central New York*

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CENTRAL New York's economic, social and political development was well advanced when that area was swept by a rising tide of anti-slavery sentiment. Now the growth of this sentiment was not occasioned by the presence of any large number of slaves—indeed there never were more than two or three hundred in any given year. Any increase, moreover, was rendered impossible by the passage of a State law in 1799 which provided that all colored women born after Independence Day of that year were to be free on reaching the age of twenty-five; while all males became free at twenty-eight. Other enactments followed, forbidding the import of blacks into the State and denying to transients any property rights in slaves. The net result was that after 1841 slavery did not exist in New York. One must look elsewhere, therefore, to find the source of this movement. Basically, this sentiment evolved out of the great wave of humanitarianism which ebbed and flowed over the entire country following the Revolution. Calvinism slowly retreated before the insistent attacks of English rationalism. Fierce and exacting humanistic inquiries by liberally minded individuals silenced those who had accepted the teachings of Jonathan Edwards of New England. The silent but effective appeal of the Friends and the tolerant influence of the frontier helped also to usher in a new order that was replete with promise for the future. Then, the American Revolution with its stress upon the rights of man was a strong and wholesome factor. Later, economic consideration helped to swell the tide against slavery. Fundamentally,

however, the crusade against slavery arose out of the social, religious and humanitarian attitudes of early nineteenth century America.

Bitter denunciation of the slavery system throughout the nation led in 1816 to the founding of the American Colonization Society which aimed at the eradication of human bondage by transporting freed slaves to Africa. Considerable enthusiasm developed for this noble undertaking; local societies were formed, such as the Madison County Colonization Society in 1830 with Dr. Nathaniel Kendrick as President, C. S. Jackson and Gerrit Smith as Vice-Presidents; and relatively large sums of money were raised to advance this cause. Manumission societies also helped to direct public opinion toward the slavery question as did other organizations which sought to improve the educational and religious life of the blacks. Nor should the work of the Friends be forgotten whose demand for emancipation gradually gained converts. Benjamin Lundy's, *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*, begun in 1812, and William Lloyd Garrison's, the *Liberator*, founded in 1831, illustrate the growing strength of the abolitionist. Here and there local abolition societies appeared in Central New York, like the Onondaga County, and Skaneateles Anti-Slavery Societies patterned after the New England Anti-Slavery Society formed in 1832. These efforts were followed by the formation of the American Anti-Slavery Society at Philadelphia in 1833. Among those who figured prominently in the organization of this society were Rev. Samuel J. May, later Unitarian pastor at Syracuse, and Beriah Green, President of the Oneida Institute. By this time Central New York had a goodly number of persons who were affiliated in one way or another with either the colonization or abolition movements, notably Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, Alvan Stewart of Utica, Edward Lewis of Madison County, and Alfred Wilkinson of Syracuse.

In the meantime the colonization movement was slowly losing ground. Lofty as had been the ideals that prompted this organization, it was soon discovered that it could not bring about the immediate eradication of American slavery and grave doubt existed that it ever could do so in the future. The prospect of transporting two to three million colored persons, seemed beyond the range of an individual society. Moreover, suspicions arose that the man-



agement of this society was not all that it could have been, and from some quarters there arose the charge that it was nothing more than a device of the pro-slavery group who hoped in this way to lull opposition to vested rights. As a result hundreds of individuals gradually gave their support to the abolitionists who



BUSINESS SECTION, CAZENOVIA, LOOKING WEST ON ALBANY STREET

made no bones about their desire to destroy slavery as speedily as possible. Local Central New York units of the American Anti-slavery Society swung into action, while from such papers as the *Cazenovia Abolitionist* a running attack was continued against slavery. Even in Peterboro, the home of Gerrit Smith, staunch defender of the colonization, an anti-slavery society was formed in 1834. Although Smith attended the organization meeting of this society and thought well of its constitution, he was not prepared to join.

In the fall of the next year, however, came the Utica Riot which transformed Smith into one of the country's leading aboli-

tionists. This disturbance, which had the blessing of Samuel Beardsley, member of Congress from the Oneida District, and many citizens of Utica, developed out of the call for a state-wide meeting for the purpose of founding a State anti-slavery society. Led by Beriah Green and Alvan Stewart, strenuous efforts were made to bring to this gathering the chief protagonists of emancipation in New York. Others, like Smith, were invited to be present in the hope they might be converted to the cause. On reaching Utica, Smith found that a mob, inspired by the *Utica Observer*, was bent upon breaking up the meeting; and this it did when the six hundred delegates tried to organize at the Second Presbyterian Church. With the cry of "traitors to their country" echoing through the streets, most of the delegates hastened to the Temperance House and here succeeded in forming a society. The following day, they gathered at Peterboro uncertain whether the rumor, that the Utica mob was on the march, was true. Fearing the worst, the society prepared to resist evil by armed force; but no mob came. Utica's interference with the right of free speech and assembly, plus a growing conviction that all was not right with the Colonization Society, turned Smith into an arch abolitionist. In less than a month he became a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society and was ready to battle for the freedom of the slave.

In the meantime the abolitionists of Onondaga continued to hold meetings and agitate in favor of emancipation. During the fall of 1839, an occasion arose that tested them to the utmost. One Mr. Davenport, a cotton planter from Mississippi, chanced to spend a few days at the Syracuse House—"a hotel celebrated for its palatial accommodations." Soon it was learned that he had with him a female slave, one Harriet Powell. Local anti-slavery opinion was touched to the quick and interpreted Harriet's presence as a challenge that could not be ignored. Acting under the leadership of William M. Clark and John Bowen, a group of citizens spirited the young girl away to Marcellus, then to Lebanon, and finally to Peterboro. Here Smith opened his home and purse, and in short time Harriet reached Canada in safety. Conservative opinion in Onondaga was outraged by the theft of Harriet and loudly demanded justice. However, the "friends of liberty quietly but firmly pursued their cause, notwith-



standing the threats of their numerous and powerful opponents." And Mr. Davenport returned to his home in Mississippi minus his slave.

While these events were transpiring in Onondaga, Madison and Oneida, anti-slavery sentiment reared itself in the other counties. Local societies came into existence and many stout defenders of the slaves raised their voices in favor of emancipation. Others, more cautious, gave lip service to the general idea. Notable in this respect was the rising young statesman of Auburn, William H. Seward, whose political ambitions at times greatly irritated the abolitionists. This was vividly revealed in the State election of 1838 when the Whig Party nominated Seward and Luther Bradish for governor and lieutenant governor; the Democrats endorsing the present incumbent, William L. Marcy. Hoping to inject the slavery issue into politics, the New York State Anti-Slavery Society at its annual meeting agreed to withhold support from candidates who did not endorse abolition. And in order to smoke the candidates out, a series of questions were addressed to them. Marcy's reply was considered an insult and Seward's was so carefully worded as to make it worthless; only Bradish, possibly acting upon the direct appeal of Gerrit Smith, was satisfactory. The abolitionists, therefor, notified the electorate of these answers and called upon them to vote only for Bradish. Spirited meetings followed in Onondaga, Madison and Oneida on the part of the anti-slavery advocates, that in Onondaga openly demanding the defeat of Victory Birdseye of Pompey, Whig candidate for Congress, who in spite of strong abolition sentiments did not answer satisfactorily certain questions that had been put to him. Although Birdseye was defeated, the Whigs carried Seward to Albany. Smith and his fellow abolitionists of Central New York met defeat. Moreover, in Onondaga, the local society was almost disrupted by Smith's charge that some of its members had actually voted for Birdseye; as it was Rev. A. C. Tuttle and John McVicar, President of the society, resigned from the organization.

The recent activities on the part of Central New York abolitionists had raised the question of direct political action. In New England the Garrisonian group stoutly refused to take this step which also had been advocated in the inner circles of



the American Anti-Slavery Society. Those who advocated political activity argued that only by such a method could slavery be abolished. Abolition tracts, meetings and speeches while good in themselves would never carry the day. Something direct in the way of party activity was needed and that right soon. On the other hand, the Garrisonians believed that it would be suicidal to drag the anti-slavery societies into politics and thought it better to leave the matter of voting up to each individual member. James C. Fuller of Skaneateles and member of the Onondaga Society took this position much to the disgust of Smith.

In 1838 Smith's tactics had been to influence the electorate to support candidates with known anti-slavery sentiments. During the course of the next year, however, he gradually came to support the views of Beriah Green of Whitesboro, Alvan Stewart of Utica, and Alfred Wilkinson of Syracuse who were thinking in terms of an independent anti-slavery party. At a meeting of the executive committee of the State society an earnest appeal was made in this direction, and at a national anti-slavery convention in Albany in July, 1839, the matter was publicly discussed. The great majority of the delegates, however, would not listen and passed a resolution binding each member of a society to vote only for those who favored immediate abolition. Smith endorsed this resolution but at a meeting in January of 1840 came out boldly in favor of a separate party. A month later he christened it the Liberty Party and in April of the same year the Liberty Party nominated James G. Birney of New York and Thomas Earle of Pennsylvania as their national candidates. Later, Smith became the candidate for governor. Local supporters throughout Central New York did their best to campaign for this ticket, Charles A. Wheaton and Alfred Wilkinson of Syracuse, Beriah Green, and Alvan Stewart being most active. But when the polls were closed Birney had garnered but 2798 votes in the entire State, or .006 per cent. In Madison County, the home of Smith, the abolitionist vote which had been 418 in 1839 amounted to but 223 in 1840. From Onondaga the Liberty Party gained but 105, with smaller returns coming from the other counties of the Inland Empire. "The first efforts at independent political action, therefore, furnished little ground for encouragement."

In the meantime the rift among the abolitionists over the question of political action had been widened by differences between Garrison and Lewis Tappan of New York City. Concerning these differences—women's rights and non-resistance—plus the personal quarrels between these two gentlemen, we are not now interested. Suffice it to say, that at New York in May, 1840, the New York group, having failed in its attempt to purge the American Anti-Slavery Society of Garrisonian attitudes, withdrew and founded the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, of which Gerrit Smith became a prominent member. Although this new organization did not endorse the principle of party action, it did not seek to prevent Smith—and it would have been ruinous to have done so—from continuing to promote the fortunes of the Liberty Party. For over a year, however, little was done in a formal way though, in February, 1842, the New York State Liberty Party met at Peterboro and nominated Alvan Stewart for governor. Later in the year a State abolition convention was held at Syracuse under the direction of local lights like Robert Freeman, Abner Bates and J. O. Bennett. Stewart was snowed under though the strength of the Liberty Party increased. During the State and local elections of 1843 further strides were made; Madison County showing 1785 Liberty Party votes, Onondaga, 758. And in the national election of 1844, this party, headed again by James G. Birney, leaped forward with considerable strength.

During the course of these years Liberty Party men and Garrisonian abolitionists swept through Central New York bombarding it with impassioned tracts and speeches against slavery. Public meetings were held by the dozens in the important cities and villages in the hope of arousing the people to action. Local enthusiasts like Charles A. Wheaton, Abner Bates, Alfred Wilkinson and Charles B. Sedgwick, all of Syracuse, and Beriah Green, Gerrit Smith and Alvan Stewart were untiring in their efforts. From the outside came Frederick Douglass, Henry C. Wright, William Chapin, Stephen Foster, Abby Kelley and William Lloyd Garrison to lend a helping hand. References to these activities may be found in any of the local papers, while certain newspapers became more or less organs of the anti-slavery movement. Among the latter were the *Religious Recorder* and *Christian Advocate and Journal* of Syracuse, both of which deplored the political activities

of the Liberty Party but generally favored the abolition of slavery. Then there were the *Liberty Intelligence* and the *Liberty Almanac*, also of Syracuse, which together with broadsides and pamphlets extolled the virtues and aspirations of the Liberty Party. J. N. Tucker struck a modern note when he published the *Liberty Harp* which contained a "choice selection of Liberty Hymns, Songs Etc." These songs, Tucker said, were "dedicated to the cause of impartial freedom" and he hoped that "every abolitionist in the country will be willing to purchase them and learn to sing." One of the many songs written ran as follows:

God speed the hour  
When slavery's power  
In all the earth shall perish—  
When every man  
Throughout our land  
Shall Freedom's spirit cherish.

Other publications like the *Liberator*, *Friend of Man*, the *Anti-Slavery Almanac* and the annual reports of the American and New England Anti-Slavery Societies appear to have been read by many. On the basis of this evidence it may safely be concluded that Central New York was becoming a stronghold of anti-slavery sentiment.

Further gains followed, particularly after the arrival in 1845 of Rev. Samuel Joseph May who became the pastor of the Syracuse Unitarian Church. For approximately two decades this tireless worker had labored in New England for the sake of the slave. He was a close and intimate friend of Garrison, had assisted in the formation of the New England and American Anti-Slavery Societies, and for a time was an agent of the latter organization. His powerful and persuasive oratory and his brilliantly composed sermons and tracts marked him as one of the outstanding abolitionists of the country. His coming to Syracuse, therefore, clearly foreshadowed an intensification of the work already undertaken in Central New York by Green, Stewart and Smith. Precisely when May first met Smith is not known. He appears to have corresponded with him as early as 1836 and conversed with him at the 1838 gathering of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Their interests in humanitarian affairs were identical in so many respects that it is difficult to believe the two did not join forces shortly



after May's arrival. At that time Smith was busy promoting the fortunes of the Liberty Party which, in the election of 1845, had suffered a serious set back though in Onondaga the number of votes cast by this party was slightly higher than it had been the year before. Smith lamented the situation but firmly believed the cause was not dead and after a meeting in Canastota in September, 1846, rejoiced that the "Liberty Car" was "on the track again."

Like many New England abolitionists May questioned the wisdom of party action. Contact with Smith seems to have softened this attitude though for a time May maintained a benevolent neutrality. During the first half of 1847 May actively labored for the slave throughout Syracuse and, September of that year, attended a Liberty Party convention, held in that city, and was elected a delegate to the national gathering which convened in October at Buffalo. May was present at this meeting and appears to have supported Smith's proposals. The latter's demand that the convention should declare slavery unconstitutional in the states as well as in the territories and that the Liberty Party should be actuated by the "true and divine idea of Civil Government" appealed strongly to May. The convention, however, thought differently. More disappointing to Smith was the convention's repudiation of his candidacy for the presidency; instead it nominated John P. Hale of New Hampshire.

Unable to have his own way at Buffalo, Smith continued to pull wires and at a meeting at Auburn, in January, 1848, plans were made for another Liberty Party Convention to be held at Buffalo in June. At this gathering, the activities of the previous convention were declared false to the Liberty Party and a new organization, the National Liberty Party came into being. This party illustrated its feelings and sentiments by nominating Smith as its presidential candidate. In the same month a group of disgruntled New York Democrats met at Utica and nominated Martin Van Buren for President. And close upon the heels of this gathering came another meeting in Ohio that issued a call for a convention to assemble at Buffalo in August for the purpose of consolidating dissatisfied Democrats, anti-slavery Whigs and any of the Liberty Party factions that might elect to attend. At this meeting, adroit politicians managed affairs so as to sound the knell of the old Liberty Party and to blast the hopes of Smith's National Liberty Party.

Hale was persuaded to withdraw his candidacy after the convention had nominated Van Buren. With Hale's withdrawal the Liberty Party ceased to exist. In its place there appeared the Free Soil Party which took as its battle cry, "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free Men." In the national election that followed,



HOTEL ONEIDA, ONEIDA

Smith polled but 2545 votes in the State—out of a total of more than half a million—most of them coming from Madison, Onondaga and Oneida Counties. On the other hand the moderate abolitionists in New York gave Van Buren more than 120,000 votes. The Liberty Party was hopelessly dead. Many of its former followers, like Charles B. Sedgwick of Syracuse, were now in the ranks of the Free Soilers.

Although the Liberty Party in its best days was hopelessly outnumbered, and never succeeded in attracting outstanding politicians and anti-slavery men like Seward, it had rendered a distinct service to the cause of the slave. It had helped to increase the strength



and numbers of abolitionists throughout the country, notably in Central New York, and made the way that much easier for its successor, the Free Soil Party. Smith, however, refused to believe his party dead and became the financial backer of the *Liberty Party Paper* published at Syracuse by John Thomas. Although this paper ran for nearly two years, it was constantly in debt, poorly written and never had a circulation of over eleven hundred in any month. Finally in June, 1851, it was merged with *The North Star* edited by Frederick Douglass of Rochester. In the meantime Smith tried his best by letters, meetings, and even conventions, to revive the defunct Liberty Party but, by 1845, even the ghost of this organization had vanished.

Central New York, Smith's own stronghold, was now in the hands of the Free Soilers. In Syracuse, Charles B. Sedgwick, Samuel J. May and others arranged for a Free Soil Convention which convened at the Empire Hotel in January, 1850. The immediate occasion for this gathering was the appearance of Charles E. Burleigh who had come to Syracuse at the request of the American Anti-Slavery Society. It was hoped that this meeting would reconcile the differences existing between the Liberty Party and the American Society. Smith attended, as did others from Cortland, Madison, and Onondaga Counties; most of those present, however, were from Syracuse and included men like Sedgwick, May, Wheaton, Jackson and John Thomas. Although May and Sedgwick, representing the Garrisonian element, were unable to bring about a complete union with Smith and the Liberty Party group, the convention itself did much to promote the cause of abolition, and that in spite of the editorials that appeared in the local papers. Burleigh's visit to Syracuse, the convention that immediately followed, and a Liberty Party meeting in February of the same year, plus various local gatherings that had been held throughout Central New York, helped to prepare opinion for another convention in May.

Suddenly, interest was whipped to a high pitch when news reached this area of what Congress was doing. America's victory in the Mexican War had resulted in the acquisition of a vast empire. What effect this might have upon the slavery issue no one knew, though it was quite clear that the South wanted this new territory to be opened to slavery. It was equally apparent that the anti-



slavery forces would move heaven and earth to prevent the rape of free soil. Both sides were determined to force a speedy settlement which was now viewed as imperative as a result of the discovery of gold in California and the desire of its residents to make that a new state. But would California be free or slave? And so the halls of Congress echoed with bitter debate, and Central New York, like other sections of the country, was thrown into the throes of a bitter controversy. Out of the *mêlée* came the voice of Henry Clay who, hoping to save the Union from destruction, proposed the Compromise of 1850. When the details of this scheme became known a storm of protest arose from North and South. Neither seemed satisfied with what Clay had proposed.

Central New York abolitionists were dumbfounded by the audacity of Clay and determined to make the Compromise the topic of discussion at the forthcoming convention. Considerable publicity was given to this meeting with the result that some six hundred persons gathered on May 16th for what was called the "California meeting." Rev. Mr. May was chosen leader of this gathering and drafted the principal resolutions. These he introduced and defended. California, May declared, must be admitted into the Union at once without any restrictions. Here was a free territory and there must be no obstacles raised as to its admission as a free state. As for the other territory acquired from Mexico, he insisted that Congress had the constitutional right to prohibit slavery in the territories and that this view should dominate at Washington. And as for Clay's sop thrown to the Southerners in the form of a stricter fugitive slave act, May was utterly opposed to it on humane and constitutional grounds. May's oratory and leadership captured the convention and little opposition was raised to the adoption of the resolutions. It was, therefore, with much disappointment that the anti-slavery advocates heard of Congress' acceptance of much of Clay's original proposals. California, to be sure, was admitted as a free state, and the slave trade in the District of Columbia was abolished, but freedom and truth had gone down to defeat in the provisions that allowed an extension of slavery into the territories. More galling were the stringent provisions for the return of fugitive slaves. Little could be done to block the march of slave owners into New Mexico and Utah, but the abolitionists were determined to set at naught the Fugitive Slave Act within Central New York.

"How the country flames with excitement on the infernal Fugitive Slave Bill," wrote W. H. Burleigh of Cazenovia to Smith. "The meetings held in this city [Syracuse] on that subject have indeed been great and good . . . It would be almost certain death to a slave-catcher to appear . . . in our streets." The meetings referred to were those sponsored by the Liberty Party in July, 1850, but more particularly to the public anti-slavery gathering at the City Hall on October 4th. Syracuse was alive with action on that latter date and the City Hall was crowded to its full capacity. The Honorable A. H. Hovey, Mayor of the city, presided and was flanked on the platform by prominent Whigs and Democrats. Hovey declared himself in opposition to the Fugitive Slave Act and added, "The colored man must be protected, he must be secure among us, come what will of political organizations." With this as a background May then arose and presented a series of resolutions couched in good orthodox anti-slavery style. A petition, moreover, was circulated asking Congress to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law. A week later, another meeting was held at which similar speeches and resolutions were passed. More significant than verbal protests was the action, agreed upon at these gatherings, to form a vigilance committee whose "duty it shall be to see that no person is deprived of his liberty without due process of law." All good citizens were earnestly requested to "aid and sustain them in all needed efforts for the security of every person claiming the protection of our laws." This committee, of which May was a member, carefully laid plans for the future. It was agreed that if anyone heard of a colored man being in danger that person was to ring the bell of one of the churches and the others would rush to a certain named place of meeting. Physical force, moreover, was to be used if necessary.

Although feeling ran high in Syracuse, and similar gatherings were held in other parts of Central New York, these meetings should not be viewed as the efforts of wild-eyed radicals. The very best that Syracuse would marshal in government, business, religion and education had attended and pledged themselves to resist the law. Horace Wheaton, E. W. Leavenworth, Hiram Putnam, Charles B. Sedgwick and others too numerous to mention constituted the core and center of this opposition. Their sentiments were well expressed by one Colonel Titus who declared, "I would advise our

colored neighbors not to remove to Canada, but to rely on the patriotism of the citizens of Syracuse for protection." Titus made this comment not within the sanctuary of his own home but at the second of the public meetings mentioned. He spoke, it is true, before friends, but as he spoke he noticed among his listeners no less a person than the Assistant United States Marshal. Titus expressed pleasure at his presence and proceeded to single him out in saying, "It is well to have him understand what are the real sentiments of his fellow citizens, which I trust will be found to be almost unanimous in favor of resistance of this execrable law."

During the remainder of 1850 and early 1851, Central New York abolitionists continued to agitate for emancipation. Nor did they miss a single opportunity to hurl defiance at the government for the Fugitive Slave Law. Several public meetings were held at Syracuse and the neighboring towns, while anti-slavery tracts and pamphlets were scattered about the area in great abundance. So prominent were the activities in this section of the country that the officers of the American Anti-Slavery Society decided to hold the annual meeting of 1851 at Syracuse. This proved to be a gala affair for Central New York. William Lloyd Garrison, William Thompson, Abby Kelley, Parker Pillsbury and others of the Garrisonian group invaded this stronghold of the Liberty Party. Local lights like May, Sedgwick, Putnam, Burleigh and even Gerrit Smith were present and all joined in fierce denunciation of the Federal Government and its recent betrayals. No doubt existed in the minds of these men that Central New York had not only parted company with the Liberty Party, but that it was ready to resist by force any attempt to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law.

Hardly had the excitement of this meeting spent itself than Syracuse was agog with interest with the forthcoming visit of Daniel Webster, to be the chief speaker at the dedication of the new locks on the Erie Canal. Recently Webster had been barnstorming the country in behalf of the Fugitive Slave Law and many citizens of Syracuse believed he would take this opportunity of reading the riot act to local abolitionists. This he proceeded to do, early in June, 1851, from the balcony of the *Courier* building, overlooking the square in front of the City Hall. An immense audience turned out to hear him and among them were the members of the local Vigilance Committee. Webster's gracious comments on the canal



were greeted with rounds of applause and his pious references to the sanctity of laws were received in good grace, but when he began to direct his generalizations to the Fugitive Slave Law a different reaction followed. His closing remarks capped all, when he said, "Those persons in this city who mean to oppose the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law are traitors," and for good measure he repeated the word "traitors" twice with rising emphasis each time. "This law," he continued, "ought to be enforced, and it will be enforced,—yes, it shall be enforced; in the city of Syracuse it shall be enforced, and that too in the midst of the next anti-slavery convention, if then there shall be an occasion to enforce it." Poor Webster! Did he think for one minute that his presence and words could possibly awe those who were ready to risk all for freedom? Could he not see that his greatness was a thing of the past? The fire and enthusiasm of oratory still remained, but it emanated from a body that was decrepit with age and service. Webster's address was a challenge that could not be ignored, and the Vigilance Committee girded itself for battle—a battle that was sanctified by God's laws and not those of misguided men.

Daniel Webster had threatened the "traitors" of Syracuse. Hold your anti-slavery conventions, pass unnumbered resolutions against the Fugitive Slave Law, but remember, the LAW SHALL BE ENFORCED! Strong language, Mr. Webster, and quite ill-advised, so thought the Vigilance Committee. Do you suppose that we who rest our case upon a "higher law" will be cowed because of an old man's utterances? Banish the thought! When the occasion arises to resist this diabolical law we will know what to do and how to do it. That was in June, 1851. The month passed, and so did the summer without any overt action. But on October 1st, an anti-slavery meeting was held in Syracuse. The abolitionists, it seems, had provided one element, according to Webster, necessary for a display of Federal authority. Oddly enough the other, and more important, element was supplied by Henry W. Allen, Deputy United States Marshal stationed at Syracuse. For it was Allen who, by announcing his intention to seize William Henry, a fugitive slave from Missouri, precipitated a clash between the government and the abolitionists of Syracuse.

William Henry, commonly known throughout the city as Jerry, had been living in Syracuse for some time, working as a cooper.

His conduct had been above reproach. That he was a runaway slave was common gossip—even the local Federal authorities knew this patent fact. And yet no action was taken against him until October 1st. Why, it is not known, though Rev. Mr. May believed that it was intentionally delayed so as to fulfill Webster's prediction. If this be true, then the authorities played directly into the hands of the Vigilance Committee which was aching for a chance to defy the dictates of Washington. Not only were they prepared for action, but the entire scene was admirably staged for their enterprise. Gerrit Smith and a dwindling band of followers were in town hoping to revive the Liberty Party. They could be counted upon to lend a helping hand to May and his fellow abolitionists. Moreover, the city itself was crowded with visitors. The County Fair was in session and Salina Street was bedecked with flags and bunting in their honor. Let Mr. Allen arouse the pent-up emotions of the local anti-slavery group by seizing Jerry and Salina Street would be transformed into a Midway. No better show could be presented.

The morning of October 1st passed quietly. Crowds milled through the streets to and from the Fair. The Liberty Party met and listened to a number of impassioned speeches; Jerry worked at his bench, and May, Sedgwick and others were busy with their usual tasks. Suddenly, as May was finishing his dinner, he caught the sound of a tolling bell. He listened attentively and as he counted the beats he knew it was the signal for action. Revolutionary Syracuse had sounded the tocsin. Hurriedly he left home and sped toward the appointed place of meeting. On his way he heard of Jerry's arrest and that he had been taken to the office of Joseph L. Sabine, Commissioner of the United States Court. Here May discovered Jerry under guard and standing trial. This was serious, but it was far worse to find that he had been given no opportunity to state his case nor to deny the charges against him. Sabine seems to have assumed Allen had done his duty and there was no question as to Jerry's escape from Missouri. All appeared to be settled. The law had caught up with Jerry who now would be returned to his master. But suddenly and without warning, Jerry slipped away from his guards and in a moment was dashing madly up the street. The entire scene was now altered. Down the street ran Jerry, manacled as he was; after him came the

police. Crowds poured out of stores and homes to watch the race. Many booed the police, cheered Jerry, but did nothing to aid the latter. In a few minutes the officers caught up with Jerry who, after putting up a stiff fight, was thrown into a cart, sat upon by two policemen and brought back to Sabine's office. Never had the County Fair furnished such excitement and entertainment.

May was still at the Commissioner's office when the victorious police returned with the prisoner whose repeated outbursts of anger seemed never to end. During these spasms, May managed to tell Jerry that friends would soon be on hand to effect his escape. "We will rescue you when it is dark," and so Jerry settled down and May rushed to the office of Dr. Hiram Hoyt where the Vigilance Committee had convened. Smith was also present as were a few other trusted souls and in a short time plans were made for Jerry's rescue. About eight in the evening a small band of determined men broke through the doors of the police office. By sheer force they overwhelmed the officers and seized Jerry, who was hustled into a buggy, which pulled by a span of swift horses, eluded his pursuers. Later in the evening, Jerry was taken to the home of Caleb Davis where he remained in hiding for several days. Finally, he was spirited out of the city to Mexico, New York, and thence to Oswego. From here he went to Kingston, Canada, where he remained in safety until his death a few years later.

The rescue of Jerry was a palpable infraction of the Federal law. Central New York abolitionists had successfully resisted the enforcement of the law, Daniel Webster notwithstanding. Touched to the quick, the Federal authorities lost no time in bringing an indictment against the rescuers. Warrants against twenty-four offenders, including May, Wheaton and Smith, were asked of Judge Conkling of Auburn. The judge ordered the arrest of eight but none of these included Smith, Wheaton and May. During the course of the trials that followed the case of the government was riddled to pieces by the skillful legal ability of Charles B. Sedgwick and ultimately the entire affair was allowed to drop. Syracuse had shown what it could do and might do.

The years that immediately followed the Jerry Rescue were crowded with events of supreme importance to Central New York and the entire nation. Many a boy who clung to his father's hand and listened to political orations of party leaders, or the impassioned



addresses of the abolitionists in 1852, made the supreme sacrifice at Petersburg, Cold Harbor or in trenches before Richmond. Little did the youth of that age realize that their parents were taking steps that would ultimately lead to war. And yet this is exactly what was transpiring. Abolitionist sentiment grew by leaps and bounds throughout the Inland Empire, as has been shown in a previous chapter dealing with party activities. Many thoughtful men, as well as others who were not so wise, wondered whether the "impending conflict" was not at hand. Meeting after meeting was held at Syracuse, Utica, Cortland, Ithaca, Auburn—in fact in every city, town and village where an audience would listen to the appeals of local anti-slavery advocates like May, Smith and Sedgwick. From neighboring counties came Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others, while Garrison, Giddings, Tappan and Phillips hastened from New England and Ohio to lend their voices and help. Taverns, dramshops, village stores and churches echoed with the din of the conflict. And as a reward for these efforts, the abolitionists had the satisfaction of seeing Gerrit Smith elected to Congress in 1852. Letters poured in on Smith congratulating him on his victory and an editorial in the *Liberator* proclaimed: "The election of Gerrit Smith . . . is among the most extraordinary political events of this most extraordinary age." Within Central New York there was great rejoicing among the reformers. At New York Central College, at McGrawville, a great celebration was held. Gathering in the chapel of this college, the friends of the slave resolved that Smith's election was one of the "happiest guaranties that the day of the slave's redemption is drawing near."

Those who had their fingers on the pulse of the nation felt certain that while the hour of redemption was drawing nigh there was plenty of time for the South to wage one last desperate attack and still remain within the Union. Now the fortunes of the South depended to a considerable degree upon the policies of the Democratic Party of which there was a large following in the Northern States. One of its most outstanding leaders, moreover, was Stephen Douglas of Illinois who elected for very good reasons to re-open the slavery issue by introducing in Congress the famous Kansas-Nebraska Bill. In credit to the "Little Giant" it should be said that if he had not done so, someone else would have, and that in the near future. The slavery issue was in the air, the Compromise

of 1850 notwithstanding, and the stage was set for another bitter conflict. Douglas engineered his measure safely through Congress, hoping that his concept of popular sovereignty would bridge the existing crisis. According to this measure the inhabitants of this territory, and not Congress, were to determine themselves whether or not they wished slavery within their limits. Abolitionists and pro-slavery advocates immediately girded themselves for action. "Rush settlers into the territory," became the cry, and clinch the victory by a smashing majority at the first election. Hence Douglas' simple proposal prepared the ground for another intersectional conflict.

In the meantime, Smith, disgusted with conditions at Washington and somewhat indisposed, left Congress and returned home. On his arrival in Central New York, he found it agog with excitement over the recent turn of events. Party lines had been rent asunder by the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Sharp differences of opinion split the Democratic Party in twain, while the Whig organization lost all sense of unity and in a few years disappeared. Nor was the anti-slavery group much better off. On the one hand, the Free Soil Party did not believe the Federal Government had the right to abolish slavery in the states, as did those Whigs that followed Garrison and Smith. But the latter differed profoundly with Garrison over the question of direct political action, and Garrison's followers in New York were captained by the Rev. Samuel J. May of Syracuse, close friend of both Garrison and Smith. Convinced that he was in the right, and believing that he could control the movement, Smith joined with others in sounding the call for a Radical Political Abolitionist Convention to meet at Syracuse in June, 1855.

At this gathering little opposition arose over the passage of the usual resolutions condemning slavery as a sin and a violation of the Federal Constitution. Some resistance did take place over the resolution repudiating Garrison's thesis, "No Union with Slaveholders," but in the main the meeting was a grand success from Smith's point of view. Moreover, several thousand dollars were raised to finance a Central Abolition Board to carry on the work of the new organization. Later, in October of the same year, Smith attended another similar gathering at Boston. Few Garrisonians were present; hence Smith and his followers had little difficulty in

drafting a constitution, the purpose of which was to gain the immediate abolition of slavery. This, it was declared, was a binding duty upon the Federal Government; and it was the solemn duty of all abolitionists to vote only for anti-slavery candidates. Later, the Radical Abolitionists called themselves the American Abolition Society. Needless to say the Garrisonians would have nothing to do with it, and so once again the anti-slavery ranks were weakened by internal dissension. Ultimately, the American Abolition Society was swallowed up by the events of the next few years and thus by itself accomplished little.

Although this cleavage was present throughout Central New York, it did not prevent all factions from joining hands in trying to save Kansas from slavery. Efforts in this direction manifested themselves in 1854 and 1855 in the appearance of the Union Emigration Society and the New England Emigrant Aid Company. These groups hoped, through the raising of funds, to finance the settlement of anti-slavery people in Kansas, and at the Syracuse Convention of 1855 no less a person than John Brown made an earnest appeal for men and money. Of the latter, he got some sixty dollars; no more was forthcoming from a gathering that was in the hands of Smith who had great visions of his Radical Abolitionist Society.

But the Kansas aid movement grew. Local societies appeared throughout Central New York, that in Syracuse being headed by Rev. Mr. May. Agents toured throughout the country and collected considerable sums of money to aid the undertaking. As the movement progressed, Smith began to take deeper interest and soon was dipping deeply and frequently into his pocket. It is also important at this point to note that Smith, a member of the American Peace Society, most enthusiastically supported the notion that funds should be spent for guns as well as for men. Later, at a Jerry Rescue Celebration at Syracuse in 1856, Smith came out boldly for the use of force to make Kansas a free territory. This was not to the liking of May and other Garrisonians in Central New York, saturated as they were with the doctrine of non-resistance. Accordingly they flatly refused to endorse the idea of force and continued to contribute funds for the transportation and maintenance of settlers. As things turned out there was no need for worry for the time being as the Kansas aid movement had practically



spent its strength by the spring of 1857. Actually the movement had not gained its ends. It is true that settlers from New England and New York were planted in Kansas, but it was the pioneers from Illinois and Iowa who in number and quality ultimately saved the day for the anti-slavery group in Kansas.

Although the Kansas aid movement had failed, it most certainly had aroused both the North and South to the realities of the situation and engendered much hate between the two. Its influence in promoting the Civil War should not, therefore, be overlooked. Pro-slavery groups interpreted the affair as a challenge and they girded themselves for action. At the same time the abolitionists, with the exception of non-resisters like Samuel J. May, became more and more convinced that slavery must be destroyed, "peacefully, if we can, forcibly if we must." Evidence as to what some were thinking and scheming may be seen in Dr. Harlow's recent life of *Gerrit Smith*. Smith together with others continued to aid John Brown in Kansas, and in the quiet and peaceful homestead at Peterboro, Brown, Smith, Sanborn and others plotted for a direct attack. The attack fell on the night of October 16, 1859, when Brown and a handful of followers seized and captured the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry. Two days later troops under command of Robert E. Lee stormed the place and took the rebels prisoners. Later, Brown was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death. In December of the same year John Brown's body was moldering in the grave.

Although many Central New York abolitionists questioned the wisdom of Brown's ill fated attack, and some openly denounced it, the majority interpreted it as did Samuel J. May. (Smith had no time to interpret it as the events had proved too much for him and he was hustled over to Utica, where he was treated for mental disorder.) May's analysis of the situation appears in his diary: "I apprehend it is but the beginning of sorrow, the pattering of the rain before the hurricane." At the same time he busied himself in another effort to prevent war. Knowing that Syracuse was planning a memorial service to be held on the day of Brown's execution, May determined to steer this meeting along peaceful and constructive lines. At six-thirty on the evening of December 2nd, news of Brown's death having just been announced, the "great bells of the City Hall were tolled every half minute for half an

hour, thus striking the age of John Brown." Syracuse stood hushed and quiet. The service that followed transformed the meeting into almost a war demonstration and for a time May feared the outcome. Ultimately he restored the gathering to some degree of sanity and gained the adoption of a resolution urging Congress to call a national convention to rid the country of slavery. It was a noble gesture but that was all. The nation was thinking along other lines at the time, and a national election was in the offing.

Central New York abolitionists were none too happy over the candidates and platforms of the various parties. Some disliked the Republicans and Lincoln because of a clause in the platform that endorsed State Rights. Accept the latter, it was argued, and you admit the existence of a constitutional basis for slavery. Nevertheless, in all probability the majority of them endorsed Lincoln as he and his party came closest to their notion of things. Lincoln's election was the immediate occasion for the secession of South Carolina, an act which immediately prompted President Buchanan to declare that he had no power to coerce a seceding state. This pleased many abolitionists of the non-resisting type who like May and Garrison were willing to see the Union destroyed rather than perpetuated on the basis of slavery. Buchanan's additional declaration that the North should accept a constitutional amendment recognizing slavery within the states and territories, however, was flatly rejected by practically all anti-slavery advocates.

Abolitionist feeling and sentiment were well demonstrated by a number of meetings that were held during the early part of 1861. One of these was held at Syracuse in late January and was the scene of much excitement. Hearing that such a gathering was to take place, a wave of hostile opinion circulated through the city, notably among the Democrats who seemed more friendly to the South than to the Union and Freedom. May, who was in charge of preparations for this gathering, had expected better things from Syracuse but sensing the situation accurately notified his friends, Miss Susan B. Anthony, Beriah Green and Stephen S. Foster, that the meeting would be postponed. Immediately, the latter group urged May to reconsider his decision and much against his better judgment he gave in. But when he approached the Mayor of Syracuse for permission to use Convention Hall, he received an evasive reply. At the same time, it was commonly reported about



town that any anti-slavery meeting would be broken up by force. In spite of this hostile sentiment, May persisted and finally persuaded the Mayor to release the hall for the convention. A few days before the time appointed for the meeting, May was earnestly requested by the Mayor to cancel the meeting. This May refused to do.

On the day preceding the meeting, May received a visit from the Chief of Police who handed him a letter from the Mayor enclosing a petition from twenty prominent citizens, ten of whom were members of May's congregation, requesting the meeting to be deferred. A collision, it was held, might ensue between the police and a lawless mob. At the same time these gentlemen admitted May's right to hold an anti-slavery meeting and that "they should be in duty bound to aid in protecting us if we did assemble." May wrote a lengthy reply that was published in the local papers in which he stated that the gathering was expressly called for the purpose of pointing out a peaceful solution of the present crisis and that in view of the promise of police protection the meeting would be held. "For, gentlemen, if you will do what you acknowledge to be your duty and if the Mayor will fulfill his generous promise, I am confident that the rioters will be overawed, that liberty of speech will be vindicated, and our city rescued from a deep disgrace."

In the meantime, Miss Anthony, Beriah Green and others from neighboring towns had arrived and after some consultation agreed that the meeting should be held. When these stout-hearted abolitionists, however, reached Convention Hall, they discovered the room to be fully occupied by rioters. Moreover, a meeting had been organized and the chairman was speaking. When he had finished, May gained the floor and said, "Mr. Chairman, there is some mistake here, or a greater wrong. More than a week ago I engaged this hall for our annual anti-slavery convention to be held at this hour." Hardly had he spoken before several rough characters crowded about him tapped his head and face with their fists and swore they would knock him down and drag him out of the hall if he uttered another word. And when Rev. Mr. Strieby of the Plymouth Church remonstrated against this assault, similar threats were hurled at him. At this juncture a policeman, the sole guardian of law placed in the hall by the Mayor, rose and recog-



nized the chairman as the presiding officer. "I came here," he said, "by order of the Mayor who has heard that there was to be a disturbance and that the liberty of speech would be outraged here. But I see no indications of such an intended wrong. The meeting seems to be an orderly one, properly organized. I approve the objects of the meeting as set forth in your introductory speech and trust you will have a quiet time." So much for the fair promises the Mayor had given.

Thus dispossessed, the abolitionists retired to the home of Dr. R. W. Pease where they held their meeting. The following morning they attempted to gather at Convention Hall only to find the rioters in full control. And with that the Convention came to an end. On the evening of the next day, however, Syracuse witnessed a glorious celebration on the part of the rioters. Down the main thoroughfare the victors marched to the music of a band. Here and there banners were displayed which read, "The Jerry Rescuers Played Out," "Freedom of Speech, but not Treason," the "Rights of the South must be Protected." After parading for some time the procession came to a halt in Hanover Square, the business center of the city, and there, amid much shouting and profanity, effigies of Miss Anthony and Rev. Mr. May were publicly burned.

## CHAPTER XII

POLITICS AND PARTIES—1816-1860





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### *Politics and Parties*

### *1816-1860*

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THE War of 1812 profoundly altered the political life of New York. Prior to the advent of that conflict, party activities had been limited to the Federalists and Republicans. The former's stout opposition to this war placed them in a most unenviable light. On top of this came the ill-conceived and generally misunderstood Hartford Convention at which, it has been said, resolutions were passed advocating secession from the Union. It is true that such notions were discussed, but the convention adjourned without taking so radical a stand. Although New York Federalists did not attend this gathering they suffered, as did all Federalists, from the consequences of the meeting. Gossip and idle rumor freely circulated throughout the State as to the treasonable doings at Hartford and, within a short time after the war was over, the party of Washington and Hamilton was eliminated from the American political arena. New political alignments soon came into being and it is with them and their activities that this chapter is concerned. Unfortunately, the sources for a detailed examination of local partisanship are by no means as complete as might be desired. Moreover, to account for the ins and outs of each party relative to local happenings is a task that must be delegated to the historian of each county.

In 1816, in spite of the weakness of the Federalists, New York Republicans were by no means certain of the future. Internal and factional disputes had lessened their strength, a situation that encouraged their opponents to believe they might win the elections.

For the high office of governor, the Federalists nominated Rufus King; the Republicans, Daniel D. Tompkins. King made a far better showing than was expected, though Tompkins was elected by a majority of nearly seven thousand votes. In Central New



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York, the contest was quite close, Onondaga, for example, giving Tompkins 1545 votes to his rival's 1178, while in Oneida, King received 2227 to Tompkins' 1893. And, as might be expected, those counties that went Republican in the gubernatorial contest, likewise generally captured seats at Albany and sent their candidates to Washington. James Porter of Skaneateles, to illustrate, was the victorious Republican candidate for Congress over Judge Geddes, a Federalist. Three Republicans were elected to the State Senate, though none of these was a resident of the county, and they also won the four Assembly seats by over five hundred votes. Although



the Federalists put up a stiff fight, it was evident that their days were numbered.

Throughout the State at this time the great issue was that of a canal, and the Federalists believed that behind DeWitt Clinton, whose advocacy of a waterway had made him a popular figure, they might come back into power. In Onondaga, Judge Geddes and Joshua Forman, names that will forever be associated with the Erie Canal, did what they could to bolster Federalist organization and it was hoped that Oneida and Madison would swing into line on the basis of the showing these counties had made in 1816. But Clinton had many friends among the Republicans, who also were for the canal, and who were determined not to allow their rivals to reap profit by being the sole supporter of a canal. In the end, the Federalists made a terrible blunder in not putting up a ticket; rather did they throw their strength to Clinton who had accepted the Republican nomination. The Federalists had committed political suicide. At the Republican convention, a faction hostile to Clinton withdrew from the party after the latter's nomination and named Peter B. Porter for governor. Clinton carried the State by the large majority of 43,310, Porter gaining only 1479 votes throughout the State. Most of Porter's strength—what there was of it—was not in Central New York, Oneida, for example, giving him but 43 votes. Equally low returns came from the other counties.

During the course of the next two years the Republicans kept themselves in power at Albany, and throughout the State, without much trouble; the Federalists having become non-existent. On the other hand, as the time approached for the gubernatorial contest of 1820, internal and factional strife developed among the Republicans. Clinton's inability to placate those Republicans who opposed him and his constant flirtation with a handful of brilliant Federalists, like Jonas Platt of Oneida, caused dissension within his party. Foremost among those who questioned Clinton's leadership was Martin Van Buren who became the head of the so-called Bucktails, the name being taken from the badge of the Tammany Society of New York City. Carefully watching every step, Van Buren gradually built up a formidable opposition and almost succeeded in ousting Clinton in 1820. The campaign was fought with much bitterness and was void of any real issue. The electorate, in short, was called upon to decide between Clinton and Tompkins,



the standard bearer of the Bucktails. Clinton carried the State by a majority of 1457 votes. In Central New York he won by only 1118 votes as Tompkins carried Cortland, Chenango and Tompkins Counties and lost Onondaga by only 47 votes. Clinton's candidates for the Senate were generally successful though the Bucktails made decisive gains in the Assembly. The election of 1820 was also a presidential one, but little interest was shown as there was only one party in the field—the Republican—and Monroe was elected without actually having been nominated for office. In the congressional elections Elisha Litchfield of Delphi defeated George Hall of Onondaga in the Cortland-Onondaga district by 177 votes. Samuel Campbell of Columbus was chosen to represent the district of which Chenango was a part. David Woodcock of Ithaca was elected in the Cayuga-Tompkins district as was Joseph Kirkland in the Oneida district, and Thomas Hubbard in the Madison area. These gentlemen served at Washington from March, 1821, to March, 1823.

In the meantime the factional disputes between the Bucktails and Clintonians continued, and in the State elections of 1821 the Bucktails increased their representation at Albany. Realizing that his influence had seriously declined, Clinton did not contest the candidacy of Joseph C. Yates, Judge of the Supreme Court, for the governorship. Shortly before the election was held, however, Solomon Southwick, hoping to win the support of the Clintonians, threw his hat into the ring. Yates met little opposition and won by 128,493 votes to his opponent's 2910. Southwick garnered but 203 votes in Central New York to Yates' 21,157. In the senatorial elections the Yates men won without much opposition and captured every seat and had almost as good a record in the assembly contests.

During the course of the next year, 1822, the State was agog with excitement over the state and congressional elections. In respect to the latter, a hotly contested campaign was waged in Onondaga between Elisha Litchfield and Asa Wells of Pompey, the former winning by a majority of 655 votes. Lot Clark of Norwich had a much easier time defeating Samuel Campbell of Columbus, the latter gaining but 821 votes out of a total of 3086. Nor did Justin Dwinell of Cazenovia meet much opposition from Samuel Baldwin of Cortland County, in the Cortland-Madison district; Baldwin received but 84 votes to his opponent's 2911. Jonathan Richmond of Aurora pushed Rowland Day of Sempronius

in the Cayuga district, but Day won by 818 votes. Henry R. Storrs of Whitestown was returned by the Oneida district, and Samuel Lawrence by the Tompkins area.

By this time the political bosses were preparing for the ensuing gubernatorial race. And in September, 1823, the Clintonians, meeting at Utica, named Clinton for that office; during this campaign the Clintonians called themselves the People's Party. Their opponents nominated Samuel Young. Clinton won by over sixteen thousand votes, though in Central New York his margin was not quite two thousand. Young carried Chenango and Tompkins and only lost Onondaga by 104 votes. Clinton's greatest strength was in Oneida and Madison. Young's party, however, was more successful in the senate and assembly elections. In the presidential campaign that ensued, Central New York followed in the wake of the State at large and supported Adams. The congressional elections of 1824 witnessed Elisha Litchfield's defeat in the Onondaga district by Luther Badger of Jamesville, the latter winning by only 98 votes. Elias Whitmore of Windsor defeated Lot Clark in the Chenango district by 55 votes; John Miller of Truxton won over John Lynde in the Cortland-Madison district; Henry Storrs had over a thousand more votes than James Lynch and was reelected from Oneida; and Charles Humphrey of Ithaca won in the Tompkins district. Charles Kellogg was elected in the Cayuga district.

Shortly after Adams had been inaugurated the regular Democratic Party in New York State came out in sharp criticism of the President. Chief among these critics was Van Buren who, in State politics, was still out after Clinton. Now Clinton was none too friendly to Adams himself and it was his hope and that of his followers that this might lead the regular Democrats to nominate some weak candidate for governor in opposition to Clinton who had been endorsed by his party in September, 1826, at Utica. Early the following month, however, the Clintonians heard of the nomination of William B. Rochester, who backed by Van Buren, was bound to put up a good fight. But when the votes were counted Clinton was the victor. In Central New York Clinton's majority was only 110 votes. Rochester carried every county except Chenango, which he lost by 171 votes, and Oneida, which went for Clinton by a majority of 1108. In the congressional elections of the same year, 1826, Luther Badger, a friend of Clinton, ran



against Jonas Earll, Jr., of the town of Onondaga. Earll won the seat by a majority of 242 votes. Nathaniel Garrow of Auburn was elected in the Cayuga district; John G. Stower, later to be a Jacksonian Democrat, of Hamilton won over John Miller of Truxton by nearly three hundred votes in the Cortland-Madison district; John C. Clark of Bainbridge defeated Robert Monell of Greene in the Chenango district, only 330 votes separated Monell from Clark; and Henry R. Storrs was reëlected for the second time over E. Bacon in the Oneida district. David Woodcock gained the Tompkins seat.

The following year (1827), with local and State politics badly confused over the impending presidential campaign, the Democrats under Van Buren decided to throw their strength behind Andrew Jackson. This led the Clintonians to support Adams. While these opinions and decisions were pending, the entire State was thrown into a turmoil over the abduction and mysterious disappearance of William Morgan who, as has been noted elsewhere, had been attacking the Masonic Fraternity. Rumor had it that Clinton, an official in the Royal Arch Masons, was partly responsible for Morgan's disappearance. Many serious-minded persons questioned Clinton's conduct in the affair and joined with others in forming the Anti-Masonic Party, which clever politicians like Thurlow Weed at once made use of. The elections to the State Legislature of that year, therefore, were conducted in heat of this excitement and over the prospect of Jackson's ascendancy to the White House. The victors in Central New York in the senatorial elections were G. B. Throop, G. H. Edwards and N. S. Benton.

Clinton's influence in the State was sadly crippled by these events, but he was not permitted to retrieve his fallen fortunes in 1828 as he died in February of that year. With Clinton's death, Van Buren became the chief political figure in the State and had little difficulty in securing the nomination for governor on the Democratic ticket. Van Buren also came out solidly for Jackson while his opponents in New York pledged themselves to Adams. For governor, the Adams men, meeting at Utica in July, 1828, nominated Smith Thompson, an associate judge of the United States Supreme Court, with Francis Granger, an Anti-Masonic man, as running mate. This was not to the liking of the Anti-Masonic Party who, in August, named Granger as their candidate for



governor. Granger flirted with the idea for a time but at the request of the Adams group finally decided to withdraw his name from the Anti-Masonic ticket; whereupon the latter nominated Solomon Southwick. By this time candidates for all three tickets had been named for local and State offices.

The campaign of 1828, therefore, was conducted amid great excitement. Mass meetings, parades and public speeches were heard all over Central New York, and the air was filled with much talk about poor Morgan and the wicked Masons. When election day had come and gone, it was found that Jackson had carried New York by over five thousand votes. Oneida, Madison and Cortland supported Adams, though Jackson triumphed in Cayuga, Chenango, Onondaga and Tompkins. Van Buren was elected governor over Thompson and Southwick, carrying every county in Central New York except Oneida which went for Thompson by some six hundred votes. Van Buren came near losing Cortland, his opponent being but 63 votes behind. Van Buren's majority in the seven counties over Thompson was 6764. And what of the Anti-Masonic Party? Well, out of some thirty-three thousand votes that Southwick picked up in the State, 4793 came from Central New York. Of these, 1876 came from Madison where Gerrit Smith had been campaigning for the Anti-Masons. Possibly this may help to account for the victory of Thomas Beekman of Peterboro over John G. Stower of Hamilton in the Cortland-Madison congressional election of the same year. Stower, the former representative, lost by some six hundred votes. In Cayuga, Gershom Powers of Auburn, an ardent Jackson man, was elected to Congress over Charles Kellogg, the Adams candidate, and Moses Dixon who ran on the Anti-Masonic ticket. Jonas Earll won in Onondaga over Daniel Kellogg and Parson G. Shipman. G. C. Bronson fiercely contested Storrs' seat in the Oneida district, but the latter won by a majority of 234 votes. Robert Monell had a thousand majority over Tilly Lynde in the Chenango district. Monell was a Jackson Democrat, resigned his seat in 1831, and was succeeded for the remainder of the term by Jacob Crocheron of Smithfield. Tompkins was represented by Thomas Maxwell. Jackson and Van Buren candidates generally won in the contests for the senate and assembly. During this campaign the Jackson group was commonly known as the Democratic-

Republicans; their opponents, the Adams men, being called the National Republicans.

Van Buren's control was increased by the State elections of 1829 and that in spite of local Anti-Masonic opposition. In some sections of Central New York considerable interest was also shown in these contests over the proposal to suppress mail service on Sunday. Several large meetings, for example, were held in Onondaga and Madison on this proposition, which had the active support of the reforming elements. Interest in this affair quickly subsided when it was found that there was no chance of the mails being stopped. Thus, during 1830, all eyes were focused on the Anti-Masonic Party who were making a strong bid for power. This time they convinced Granger to accept their nomination for governor, and placed a strong ticket in the field for the senate and assembly. The Democratic-Republicans named Enos T. Throop for governor, while a third party, the Working Men's Party, nominated Ezekial Williams of Auburn. Throop won over Granger by some eight thousand votes; Williams receiving but 2332 votes throughout the State. In Central New York, Williams gained but 23 votes, none of which came from Chenango and Cortland. Throop's majority over Granger in the seven counties was 1001, showing how much this area was interested in the anti-Masonic movement. Granger carried Cayuga by ten votes, though he had larger majorities in Chenango and Tompkins, and lost Cortland by only 41 votes. Throop's strength was in Oneida and Onondaga. In the congressional elections that fall, Samuel Beardsley of Utica easily defeated Simon N. Dexter for the Oneida seat. Ulysses F. Doubleday of Auburn nosed out ahead of Josiah Hopkins in the Cayuga district; Freeborn G. Jewett of Skaneateles defeated William Jerome in the Onondaga district; and John A. Collier of Binghamton defeated Abiah Cook of Chenango in the Tioga-Chenango district. G. H. Barstow won the Tompkins seat over David Woodcock. In the Madison-Cortland area, Edward C. Reed of Homer was elected over E. W. Edgecomb. Among the State senators elected that year reference should be made to William H. Seward of Auburn, running on the Anti-Masonic ticket, who defeated David McNeil.

Flushed with these local successes, the Anti-Masons sought additional gains in the State elections of 1831. Fortune, however, did not smile upon their efforts and the Democrats flocked to both



senate and assembly. The next year the Democrats were again the victors. Samuel Edwards of the town of Onondaga defeated Amos P. Granger of Syracuse for senator by the very narrow margin of 196 votes in a district which included Cayuga and Onondaga. John F. Hubbard of Hamilton was elected for Chenango-Cortland-Tompkins, and John G. Stower for Madison-Oneida. The Democrats also won the governorship, William L. Marcy defeating Granger who this time ran on the National Republican ticket, which had the support of the Anti-Masons. In Central New York, Marcy's margin was 1656 votes, losing only Cortland and Madison which went for Granger by about 150 votes. Both of these counties likewise supported Jackson's opponents in the presidential race, indicating where conservative and anti-Masonic opinion was strong. Jackson carried Central New York by some two thousand votes. In the elections to Congress, Henry Mitchell of Norwich was elected from the Chenango district. William K. Fuller of Chittenango was the successful candidate in the Madison area. Samuel G. Hathaway of Solon won in Cortland; Nichol Halsey of Trumansburg won in Tompkins, and Rowland Day of Sempronius in Cayuga. Samuel Beardsley was the winner in Oneida, and William Taylor of Manlius for Onondaga.

The campaign of 1832 was the last in which the Anti-Masons played any rôle outside of a few "infected" areas. Most of them in time flocked over to join the Henry Clay group, which marched under the name of the Whig Party. William H. Seward, for example, who once had been State Senator as an Anti-Mason, now became a Whig and was that party's candidate for governor in 1834 against Marcy, the Democratic leader. Seward lost the election by some thirteen thousand votes, though in Central New York he was only some thirty-five hundred behind his opponent. Seward carried only one county, namely, Chenango, and that by a margin of but 139 votes. All the other counties, including his own, Cayuga, went for Marcy. The congressional elections of 1834 were won by Samuel Beardsley, William K. Fuller, William Taylor, Ulysses F. Doubleday, William Mason and Joseph Reynolds of Virgil. All of these men were staunch Democrats. Beardsley resigned his seat in March of 1836 when his place was taken by R. B. Miller of Utica. The Democrats won every senatorial seat in Central New York, the successful candidates being Chester Loomis of



Ontario, Levi Beardsley and Abijah Beckwith. In the State contests of 1835 the Whigs also suffered serious defeats, the only close election being in the Oneida-Madison senatorial district where David Wager of Utica won over Micah Sterling by a vote of 15,501 to 15,374.

Although the Whigs had not made a very good showing, they hoped to do better in the elections of 1836, a presidential year. Nationally, their ticket was headed by William H. Harrison who ran against Martin Van Buren, the Democratic candidate. For governor, the Whigs named Jesse Buel, one time editor of the *Albany Argus*; the Democrats decided to run Marcy again. When an evening meeting was held in Tammany Hall to ratify the Democratic nominations, a group known as the Equal Rights Party, followers of Robert Owen's political and social notions, tried to obtain control of the meeting. Fearing they might succeed, their opponents hurriedly shut off the gas, leaving the room in darkness. Whereupon the Equal Righters, who had experienced the same tactics at an earlier meeting, lighted candles and matches (locofocos) and went ahead with their business. As a result of this incident they became known as Locofocos, and at a State convention held at Utica nominated Isaac Smith for governor. The campaign was hard and bitter. Van Buren carried the State and every county in Central New York except Cortland, a conservative stronghold, which he lost by 293 votes. Marcy also lost out in Cortland but won the other counties. Smith, who gained but 3496 votes in the State, obtained six hundred of these in Central New York, of which 591 came from Oneida and Madison; he did not receive a single vote in Cayuga, Cortland and Chenango. In the congressional elections the Democrats did quite well. William Taylor was returned from Onondaga; Andrew D. Bruyn of Ithaca won the Tompkins seat; William H. Noble of Cato, the Cayuga seat; Henry A. Foster of Rome was chosen to represent Oneida; Bennet Bicknell of Morrisville won in Madison, and J. C. Clark of Bainbridge was the victor in Chenango. Bruyn died in July, 1838, his place being taken by Cyrus Beers of Ithaca. Democrats in the persons of David Wager, Samuel Edwards and Daniel Dickinson won the senatorial contests.

Although the Whig candidates had made a good showing, 1836 was a Democratic year. At the same time the latter party was weakened by internal dissensions that had developed over the

national fiscal policies of Jackson and Van Buren. The dissatisfied elements were frequently referred to as "juniors," some of whom actually went so far as to vote with the Whigs at Washington. These differences became quite pronounced in the State elections of 1837, thus allowing the Whigs to gain seats at Albany. Of the three senators elected from Central New York, Laurens Hull and John Maynard were Whigs. Encouraged by these results, the Whigs entered the campaign of 1838 with great hopes. Meeting at Utica, in September, 1837, they nominated William H. Seward for governor. Seward's chances were greatly improved when the Bank Democrats endorsed Seward over Marcy, the nominee of the regular Democratic Party. Seward was elected, gaining all the counties of Central New York except Madison and Oneida which went for Marcy. Joseph Clark, Robert C. Nichols and Alvah Hunt of Greene—all Whigs—won the senatorial elections. In respect to Congress, John G. Floyd of Utica defeated C. P. Kirkland in the Oneida district by nearly a thousand votes. Nehemiah Earll of Syracuse won over Victory Birdseye of Pompey in the Onondaga district by the small margin of 74 votes. In Madison, Edward Rogers was elected as was John C. Clark of Bainbridge in the Chenango district. Amasa Dana of Ithaca was the winner in Tompkins, and Christopher Morgan of Aurora won in Cayuga. All of these were Democrats, excepting Morgan, who was a Whig. Outside of the congressional contests, however, the Whigs had done remarkably well and confidently expected to wipe the slim Democratic majority in the State Senate out of existence in the elections of 1839.

And this is exactly what happened, the Democrats losing control of the Senate for the first time in over two decades. The senators elected from Central New York were Sumner Ely, Mark Sibley and A. B. Dickinson. Although neither of the two major parties had given much attention to the agitations of the abolitionists, about whom comment has been made in a previous chapter, they proceeded to do so as the year 1840 approached. Captained by such outstanding and capable men as Alvan Stewart of Utica, Gerrit Smith of Peterboro and Alfred Wilkinson of Syracuse, who had the backing of the state and national anti-slavery societies, the abolitionists were determined to be seen and heard. Believing in direct political action, the anti-slavery men of the Inland Empire



rallied under the banners of the Liberty Party, conceived and led by Gerrit Smith. In April, 1840, this party nominated James G. Birney, then residing in New York, for the presidency, and in August of the same year, at a convention held at Syracuse, named Smith for governor. Candidates were also nominated for the legislature and for several congressional seats.

In the meantime the Whigs were busy and at Utica, in August, nominated William H. Seward for the governorship; the Democrats, gathering at Syracuse, endorsed William C. Bouck, a canal commissioner from Schoharie. Candidates were also named for Albany and Washington. Important as these contests were, the enthusiasm and interest shown centered chiefly about the national campaign. The Democrats quite naturally renominated Van Buren whose record and appeal, it was thought, would secure victory. Not to be outdone, the Whigs nominated the "hero of Tippecanoe," General William H. Harrison. "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" became the slogan of the Whigs whose parades and demonstrations were rivaled by those of the Democrats. An enormous state-wide meeting of Whigs, assembled at Syracuse in September, illustrates the tactics of the campaign. Visitors, sixty thousand in number, poured into the village by rail, canal, stage and on horseback. Long processions of wagons, gaily decorated, were driven through the streets, and from Pompey came a log cabin drawn on wheels. Typical of the slogans displayed in these parades was

With Tip and Tyler  
We'll bust Van's biler.

And when election day was over it was found that Harrison had carried the State by 13,290 votes. In Central New York, Van Buren polled 32,791 votes to his opponent's 34,162, losing every county except Oneida, which he carried by 612, and Onondaga, which he won by but 6 votes. Birney, the Liberty Party's candidate, obtained 2808 votes in the State, of which 902 or 32 per cent. came from Central New York. Birney did best in Oneida, Onondaga and Madison where he gained 383, 105 and 240 votes, respectively. In the race for governor, Gerrit Smith, the abolitionist, won 2662 votes in the State, of which 853 came from Central New York, Oneida and Madison giving him 351 and 254 votes, respec-



tively. Harrison's national victory pulled Seward into office with a majority, however, of but 5285 votes over Bouck. The contest in Central New York went to Seward by only 35 votes. In every county the contest was exceedingly close, except in Oneida where



ITHACA VIEW (1939) LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM TOP OF  
CASCADILLA BUILDING, EAST HILL

*(Courtesy of De Witt Historical Society of Tompkins County)*

Bouck won by 799 votes. Bouck also carried Madison by six votes and Onondaga by 149; the other counties went for Seward. Cayuga, Seward's own home, gave him a scant majority of 103 votes.

In the congressional elections of 1840, Victory Birdseye nosed out Nehemiah Earll in the Onondaga district by a vote of 10,854 to 10,772. A. L. Foster of Morrisville was elected for Madison in another close contest, as was Lewis Riggs of Homer in the Cortland-Tompkins district. J. G. Floyd and J. G. Clarke, of

Utica and Bainbridge, were reëlected in the Oneida and Chenango districts. In Cayuga, Christopher Morgan defeated Peter Yawger by some two hundred votes. All of these successful candidates were Whigs except Lewis Riggs who was a Democrat. S. C. Cuyler, A. Blair, James Brown, Robert Furnam and John Pratt were abolitionist candidates, none of whom polled over 506 votes. James Delong, Henry Bradley and Stephen Prentiss were the anti-slavery candidates for the senate, Delong gaining 599 votes in the Oneida-Madison district. The senators elected from Central New York included Henry Foster, Elijah Rhoades and Nehemiah Platt. Most of the assemblymen elected from Central New York were Whigs.

Governor Seward's advocacy of separate schools for foreigners taught by teachers of their own faith, plus his growing anti-slavery attitudes, did much to lessen the Whig strength during 1841, when the Democrats regained control of the legislature. Abolitionist candidates in this election almost doubled their vote over 1840. Fearing continued Democratic strength, the Whigs tried to induce Seward to run again, but he wisely declined the honor. Whereupon the party, meeting at Utica in October, named Luther Bradish for governor. In the meantime, the Democrats decided to run Bouck again, and the Liberty Party, gathering at Peterboro, nominated Alvan Stewart of Utica. Bouck won the election with a majority of twenty-one thousand votes. In Central New York, Bradish gave him a good run, losing by 3954 votes; Bouck won every county. Stewart's vote in the State was almost three times greater than Smith's had been two years before, and in Central New York, the abolitionist strength jumped from 835 votes to 2121. Over half of Stewart's supporters were in Madison and Oneida, and the abolitionist candidates for Congress had reason to be satisfied with their showing. The Congressmen elected included Samuel Beardsley of Utica, Smith M. Purdy of Norwich, Horace Wheaton of Pompey, George Rathburn of Auburn and Amasa Dana of Ithaca. Madison was represented by Orville Robinson of Mexico, Oswego County. All these were members of the Democratic Party. Beardsley resigned his seat in March, 1844; his place being taken by Levi Carpenter of Waterville. The appended tables show how close the contest was in these elections as well as in those for 1843. One should also note the rising strength of the abolitionists. In the elections of that year, the Democrats were generally successful



throughout Central New York; indeed, they were able to elect George N. Niles from Cortland, the first Democrat to be chosen from that district to the assembly since 1834.

1844 was a presidential year, and the electors of New York were drawn into another hectic national campaign which centered to a marked extent over the question of Texas. Texas, it will be recalled, had seceded from Mexico, set itself up as an independent nation, and showed distinct signs of wanting to join the Union. In the United States a strong movement developed favoring annexation of Texas—a move the abolitionists charged was but a plot to further the slavery interests in America. Others opposed this move on the ground that it might involve us in a war with Mexico. Now, the Democratic Party generally took the position that if the people of Texas wanted to join the Union it was not necessary for them to gain the consent of Mexico. This party then turned to Van Buren to be their candidate for president, but Van Buren did not see the Texas question as they did. This lost Van Buren the nomination, the honor going to James K. Polk. The Whigs were more careful, said little or nothing about Texas, and named Henry Clay as their candidate. As the campaign progressed, Clay came to see that he must take some stand on the Texan question and in a short time was speaking on the subject. His position, however, was so cloudy that few actually knew whether he favored annexation or not. On the other hand no one doubted the position of James G. Birney, the abolitionist candidate.

For governor, the Whigs named Millard Fillmore, one of Weed's understudies and once a member of the Anti-Masons. The Democrats placed themselves behind Silas Wright, and the abolitionists backed Alvan Stewart. Clay lost New York and the coveted White House because 15,812 electors cast their votes for Birney, which was about five times the number he had received in 1840. In Central New York, Clay carried only one county, Cortland, and this by the narrow margin of but 20 votes. As it was, Polk received only 2904 more votes in the Inland Empire than Clay, and Birney's 4671 vote was a godsend to Polk. Birney's chief strength was in Madison and Oneida where he polled 1311 and 1144 votes, respectively. In the race for governor, Stewart gained over fifteen thousand in the State, of which 4580 were from Central New York. Wright won the governorship, carrying Central New



York by a little over two thousand. Wright won every county though the vote, outside of Oneida, was exceedingly close. For Congress, Horace Wheaton was reëlected over B. D. Noxon, the Whig candidate, from the Onondaga district. Benjamin F. Sweet, the abolitionist candidate, polled 696 votes. Stephen Strong, a Democrat from Owego, Tioga County, represented Chenango, and William J. Hough, a Democrat from Cazenovia, was elected for Madison. The abolitionist strength in Madison was 1404. Timothy Jenkins of Oneida Castle, running on the Democratic ticket, defeated Fortune C. White, a Whig, by some five hundred votes, and George Rathburn, a Democrat from Auburn, was reëlected over William Richardson. The abolitionist strength in these two counties, Oneida and Cayuga, was much larger than what it had been two years before. The State elections were highly satisfactory to the Democrats who did even better in the contests of 1845, though J. A. Spencer, a Whig, was elected senator from the Oneida-Madison district. T. J. Wheeler and Richard H. Williams, Democrats, were the other senators chosen.

In 1846 the Democrats gathered at Syracuse to decide upon a State ticket. It was soon discovered at this meeting that the party was composed of two factions—the so-called Hunkers and Barnburners—both of whom wished to gain control. After much debate they finally agreed upon Silas Wright for governor. Shortly before, the Whigs, meeting at Utica, had nominated John Young, and the abolitionists sponsored Henry Bradley, who had made quite a run for senator two years before. A fourth ticket, the Native Americans, hostile to aliens, made its appearance, its candidate being Ogden Edwards. The Whigs elected their man, though in Central New York the balloting was quite close, less than three thousand votes separating Wright from Young, though the latter carried every county. Bradley's vote was lower than what Stewart had received in 1844, and in Central New York it declined from 4580 to 2952. Edwards, who won but 6305 votes in the State, garnered but 48 in Central New York, 42 of which came from Oneida. For Congress, Timothy Jenkins was reëlected in the Oneida district over Orsamus Matteson, a Whig from Utica. In Onondaga, Horace Wheaton was defeated by Daniel Gott of Pompey, a Whig. Cortland and Cayuga were represented by Harmon S. Conger, a Whig from Cortlandville. Ausburn Birdsall,

a Democrat from Binghamton, was elected to represent the district of which Chenango was a part, and William Duer, a Whig from Oswego, represented the Madison-Oswego district. The senators elected from Central New York included N. J. Beach, Samuel Hall and Abraham Gridley. The following year T. E. Clark of Utica, T. H. Bond of Otsego, George Geddes of Fairmount and Samuel Hall of Binghamton were chosen senators.

Since the beginning of the 1840s the abolitionist strength had grown to a point where it was bound to influence national politics. Expressed in terms of a party the abolitionists had not and were not to gain much success. On the other hand the anti-slavery principles did profoundly influence party activities as was shown in the campaign of 1844. Central New York, as has been observed, was a stronghold of the abolitionists and acting under the stimulus of Gerrit Smith, a Liberty Party convention, meeting at Buffalo in the fall of 1847, nominated John P. Hale of New Hampshire for president. This was a severe blow to Smith who had aspirations of his own and, after a preliminary gathering of his friends at Auburn in January, 1848, he was nominated at a national convention held at Buffalo in June of the same year. This group proudly called itself the National Liberty Party and called upon all abolitionists to ignore the nomination of Hale. Events, however, were to show that neither Smith nor Hale had any chance as the bulk of the anti-slavery sentiment of the State rallied behind Martin Van Buren.

Now, Van Buren might not have been a presidential candidate had the Democratic Party been able to smooth over the differences that existed in their ranks over the question of slavery. In New York these differences were shown by the activities of the Hunkers and Barnburners. The former took a conservative position which more or less recognized the rights of the South; the latter, arguing for the Wilmot Proviso which stated that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude should ever exist in the territories recently acquired by war from Mexico. However, at the national convention of the party, the managers were able to soft pedal the slavery issue, which pleased the South, and then, hoping to placate northern Democrats, arranged for the nomination of Lewis Cass of Michigan. This action was resented in New York by the Barnburners, who sought to secure an endorsement of the Wilmot Proviso at a State

convention held at Syracuse in the fall of 1847. Determined that this resolution should not pass, the Hunkers succeeded in having the same tabled. Later, a similar resolution was introduced but was declared out of order, whereupon the Barnburners appealed from the decision of the chair. For fifteen minutes the air was blue with threats and counter-threats. Fearing defeat, the Hunkers left the hall to their opponents who adjourned after issuing a call for another convention. Meeting at Herkimer in October they adopted the resolution tabled at Syracuse and in June, 1848, nominated Martin Van Buren for president. Realizing this was not binding nationally, they summoned a meeting in August at Buffalo. It was their hope that disgruntled and anti-slavery Whigs and the Liberty Party would forget their differences and join with them to endorse the position taken at Utica.

Adroit politicians managed the Buffalo gathering in a most clever manner. Hale was persuaded to withdraw his nomination; whereupon the convention named Van Buren. With Hale out of the picture, the old Liberty Party ceased to exist. In its place there arose the Free Soil Party, with its battle cry, "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free Men." Although its anti-slavery position was limited to slavery within the territories, and thus was not to the liking of radical abolitionists, it was forward looking enough to most anti-slavery men. Smith and his National Liberty Party were doomed to failure. In the meantime, the Whigs even more cautious than before adopted no platform, thus avoiding any statement about slavery, and nominated Zachary Taylor for the presidency.

For governor, the New York Whigs named Hamilton Fish, the Democrats (Hunkers) nominated Reuben Walworth, the Free Soilers, John A. Dix, and the National Liberty Party, William Goodell. The campaign was a frenzy affair and contested with much bitterness. Taylor carried the State with Van Buren and Cass running second and third, respectively. Poor Gerrit Smith polled but 2545 votes in the State, most of these coming from Madison, Oneida and Onondaga. The votes of the three major candidates in Central New York were Taylor, 27,154; Cass, 13,245; and Van Buren, 21,858. Although Taylor carried every county, the combined vote of his two opponents was greater than his; Van Buren running a close second in Oneida and Onondaga. In the



race for governor, Fish carried every county in Central New York, though the total vote cast for Dix and Walworth exceeded his. Goodell garnered 1593 votes in the State, of which 468 came from Central New York, Madison counting for 179 of these. The Liberty Party was clearly a thing of the past; from now on anti-slavery sentiment was to be within the Free Soil Party until the advent of the Republican Party. In the congressional elections of 1848 the abolitionist candidates were snowed under. Orsamus Matteson, a Whig, defeated C. A. Mann, a Van Buren Democrat, and J. W. Williams, a supporter of Cass, for the Oneida seat. Daniel Gott, also a Whig, was reëlected over Charles B. Sedgwick of Syracuse and Henry Baldwin; Sedgwick was a Van Buren Democrat, Baldwin a follower of Cass. Harmon S. Conger, a Whig, was reëlected over Ballard and Hyde, Van Buren and Cass men, in the Cortland-Cayuga district. Henry Bennett, a Whig from New Berlin, was the victor in the district of which Chenango was a part. And William Duer, a Whig, won over his Van Buren and Cass opponents, J. W. Nye and Daniel Crouse, in Madison and the rest of that district. Nye did fairly well in Madison County itself, but Duer's strength in Oswego was too much for him.

During 1849 political bosses throughout the State were busy mending fences and seeking to evaluate the strength of the anti-slavery movement. Among the Whigs, Thurlow Weed and William H. Seward were preparing for the elections of 1850 when, suddenly, the death of President Taylor caused great consternation. At that time Seward was a United States Senator and as the "chief dispenser of Federal patronage in New York," held much power. Taylor's death moved Fillmore, the Whig boss of Western New York and Vice-President, into the White House and Seward's power subsequently declined. Nor was there much love shown between Fillmore and Weed. Greater dissension within the New York Whigs followed at Utica in September, 1850, when the party gathered to name a State ticket. Washington Hunt, a popular and moderate man, was nominated for governor, much to the dislike of those who were favoring Seward. Nor were Seward's services to the party at first recognized and, when a resolution applauding his labors was forced through, a conservative group headed by Francis Granger left the hall. A month later Granger's group,

known as the Silver Gray Whigs after the silver-haired leader, met at Utica and endorsed Hunt but said nothing good of Seward.

In the meantime, the Democrats had convened at Syracuse. Horatio Seymour of Utica, and Fernando Wood of New York City, saw to it that the Hunkers welcomed the Barnburners, though the differences between the two still existed. The convention then endorsed the Compromise of 1850, which it will be recalled had been signed by a Whig President, Fillmore, and contained certain provisions relating to slavery not altogether to the liking of the anti-slavery sentiment in the country. The action of the convention, therefore, caused many Barnburners to leave the meeting with misgivings, after Seymour had been named for governor. Later, many of them drifted openly into the Free Soil Party which, however, did not have a ticket in the State election of 1850. Anti-slavery Whigs and Democrats now joined in supporting the candidacy of William L. Chaplin, a former Liberty Party man and friend of Gerrit Smith. Chaplin's recent arrest in Washington for having aided in the escape of two southern slaves, did much to lessen his chances, and as the details of the affair became known his strength became limited to those of radical abolitionist views.

The election that followed, therefore, was a contest between Seymour and Hunt, the latter winning by but 262 votes. In Central New York, Seymour was the victor by 1649 votes, carrying the Counties of Chenango, Oneida, Tompkins and Onondaga. Chaplin's vote in Central New York was but 1425, of which 600 came from Madison, the home of Gerrit Smith. In the congressional elections, Orsamus Matteson, a Whig, was defeated in the Oneida district by Timothy Jenkins, who received 117 more votes than Matteson. Daniel T. Jones, a Democrat of Baldwinsville, won the Onondaga seat over V. M. Smith, a prominent Whig of Syracuse; Jones had a majority of some seven hundred votes. But Henry Bennett, the Whig from New Berlin, retained his seat at Washington by defeating his Democratic opponent, J. J. Taylor. Thomas Y. Howe, Jr., a Democrat from Auburn, won over the Whig, E. B. Morgan, for the Cayuga-Cortland district by 26 votes. Henry S. Walbridge of Ithaca was elected for the district of which Tompkins was a part. All things considered, the Whigs were well pleased with the results and were in control at Albany, where many



political battles were being fought during 1851 over a proposed enlargement of the Erie Canal.

Although Syracuse was vitally interested in the canal proposition, much of its attention that year was turned to the determined stand taken by the local abolitionists, headed by Rev. Samuel J. May, to nullify the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. The celebrated "Jerry Rescue," recounted in a previous chapter, clearly revealed the rising tide of anti-slavery sentiment in Central New York. Precisely how the parties would line up on the question of slavery was a thing that perplexed the bosses as well as the ordinary voters. The Whigs finally announced their stand at a national convention held at Baltimore in June, 1852. Here Seward and Weed managed things so that Fillmore was passed over for the presidential nomination in favor of General Winfield Scott. As for slavery, the convention endorsed the Compromise of 1850, much to the disgust of Seward. In the meantime, the Democrats named Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire, and the Free Soilers nominated John P. Hale. The Democrats, after having endorsed the Compromise of 1850, declared that the slavery question should not be renewed in or out of Congress. Hale's position was in accordance with the principles of the Wilmot Proviso. For governor, the Free Soilers named Tompkins, the Whigs, Horatio Seymour, and the Democrats renominated Governor Hunt. Locally, as well as nationally, the election of 1852 was almost a referendum on the slavery issue. Three choices were laid before the electorate. A vote for Pierce was a vote for the Compromise and a promise to silence the slavery issue; a vote for Scott was a vote for the Compromise and uncertainty as to the future; and a vote for Hale was a vote for the restriction of slavery with the implied threat of subsequent abolition.

Pierce won the election, carrying New York by some twenty-seven thousand votes over Scott and by two hundred thousand over Hale. Almost one-fourth of the twenty-five thousand Hale votes came from Central New York, which was more than Birney had won in 1844; of these, 4318 came from Oneida, Onondaga and Madison. Pierce carried Central New York by 1230 votes, though Scott won Cayuga and Cortland. Seymour did a little better in this area than Pierce, though he, too, lost Cayuga and Cortland, Whig strongholds. Tompkins ran behind Hale throughout Central New York. For Congress, Orsamus Matteson, a Whig, was elected



from the Oneida district, his total vote being larger than that polled by his opponents, David Moulton, J. A. Spencer and James Delong, the latter being the Free Soil candidate. Henry Bennett, a Whig, was reëlected from Chenango-Cortland over E. B. Smith, who polled 342 votes less than his rival; J. L. Boyd, Free Soiler, ran a poor third with but 375 votes. In Madison, however, the anti-slavery advocates rose to great heights and elected Gerrit Smith. Smith gained 8423 votes, W. J. Hough, Democrat, 6206, and Henry Ten Eyck, Whig, 5620. Daniel T. Jones of Baldwinsville was reëlected in the Onondaga district over Daniel Gott by a majority of 485 votes; R. R. Raymond, a Free Soiler, was third. Edwin B. Morgan of Aurora, a Whig, captured the district of which Cayuga was a part from Thomas Y. Howe, Democrat and former Congressman. S. C. Cuyler, Free Soiler, polled over eleven hundred votes to take third place. The Tompkins district was won by J. J. Taylor of Owego, a Democrat.

During 1853, the Hunker and Barnburner factions of the Democratic Party all but came to blows in the State elections of that year. Both groups assembled at a party convention at Syracuse in September, but the session had hardly gotten under way before the Hunkers claimed mistreatment. Not gaining any satisfaction, the Hunkers withdrew, held a meeting of their own and nominated separate candidates for some of the State offices and proceeded to do all they could to make Governor Seymour uncomfortable. The Barnburners nominated a ticket of their own and declared their faith in Seymour. Facing these two factions and taking advantage of the situation, the Whigs won the elections.

It was about this time that Stephen A. Douglas introduced at Washington the celebrated Kansas-Nebraska Act, whereby the Compromise line laid down in 1850 as to the limits of slavery in the territories was to be removed and the area occupied by Kansas and Nebraska might be opened to slavery upon the vote of the inhabitants thereof. Popular sovereignty, and not Congress, was to decide whether these areas were to be free or slave. New York generally opposed this measure and its able Senator, Seward, flayed the measure at Washington. Paper after paper throughout Central New York, politicians, Whig and Democrat, came out against the bill, while abolitionists like May and Smith were loud in their denunciations. All was for naught, as the bill passed Congress.

Immediately thereafter the State was agog with excitement over the efforts of the Emigrant Aid Society to save Kansas from slavery. And it was amid such a background that the parties prepared for the elections of 1854. Meeting at Syracuse in July, 1854, the Hunker group finally agreed to endorse the Nebraska Act and named Greene C. Bronson for governor. And in the same month, and in the same city, the Barnburners renominated Seymour. At this gathering an attempt was made to condemn Douglas' work, but party whips had such a motion tabled. In the meantime, the various anti-democratic groups, one by one, came out in favor of Myron H. Clark. Clark was a leader in the temperance movement and had sponsored, at Albany, a measure Seymour had vetoed; hence he had the support of those voters who wanted to make the liquor issue the question of the day. Many anti-Nebraska people who could not swallow the actions taken by the Democratic factions, joined in supporting Clark as did the Whigs. A fourth ticket, the Native Americans or Know Nothings, headed by Daniel Ullman, hoped to profit by these dissensions and win the election.

Clark won by the scant majority of 309 votes over Seymour. Bronson polled but 33,850 votes, though Ullman captured 122,822. In Central New York, Clark won over Seymour by nearly five thousand votes; Bronson and Ullman gaining but 3721 and 9163 votes, respectively. Seymour carried Oneida, made a good race in Onondaga but lost heavily in the other counties. Ullman did best in Onondaga, where he gained about one-third of the votes cast for him in the Inland Empire. In the congressional elections, Orsamus Matteson kept his Whig seat at Washington for the Oneida district, as did Edwin B. Morgan, another Whig, in the Cayuga district. Middleton, the Native American candidate in Cayuga, polled close to seven thousand votes. Amos Granger, Whig, was elected in the Onondaga district, and Henry Bennett of New Berlin, also a Whig, retained the Chenango-Cortland seat. Madison was represented by A. Z. McCarthy of Pulaski, Oswego County, thus adding another Whig to Congress, and the Tompkins district elected John M. Parker, a Whig, who resided in Owego, Tioga County. Surely the Whigs had reason to be pleased.

During 1855 the two Democratic factions continued to differ over the slavery issue, thus enhancing the chances of their opponents in the State elections of that year. Meeting in Syracuse during



September, 1855, the Whigs joined with the recently formed Republican Party in Wisconsin and came forward with a complete Republican ticket. The Know Nothings were also active. Slavery was the paramount issue and the growing strength of the Republican Party was shown by the number they elected to the Legislature. The Liberty Party made a feeble attempt in this contest to elect Frederick Douglass, colored publicist of Rochester, and Lewis Tappan, long an ardent anti-slavery leader of New York City, for the posts of secretary of state and comptroller, respectively.

Hardly had the din of this conflict subsided when preparations were undertaken for the critical elections of 1856. This was a presidential year and the Democrats, after much discussion, finally nominated James Buchanan for president. The Republicans, meeting at Philadelphia, finally passed over William H. Seward of Auburn and named John C. Frémont, "the Pathfinder of the West." Disgruntled Whigs and Native Americans held separate conventions but united in endorsing ex-President Fillmore; these two groups hoped to win by demanding that the preservation of the Union was more important than slavery. The Democrats continued to stand upon the principle of popular sovereignty as laid down in the Kansas-Nebraska Act, while the Republicans declared that Congress had the right and duty to prohibit the extension of slavery in the territories. These differences were reflected in the nominations for governor in New York. The Democrats, after much debate, finally named Amasa J. Parker for that office, while the Republicans passed over Governor Clark, whose temperance views were too radical for most of that party, and named John A. King, son of Rufus King. The Native Americans nominated Erastus Brooks, a brother to James Brooks of the New York *Express*.

Fierce and bitter was the conflict that followed. Parades, demonstrations and public addresses were witnessed throughout the State, while the newspapers played up the particular candidates with much gusto. Finally, when the votes had been tabulated it was found that Buchanan had won the election, though Frémont carried New York with a majority over Buchanan of some eighty thousand votes. Frémont's vote over Fillmore was 151,403. Central New York reflected this swing toward Frémont, giving him 47,663 votes to Buchanan's 19,309, and Fillmore's 9281. Although Fillmore fell far behind Buchanan he was ahead of him



in Cayuga and Tompkins, though both of these counties as well as the others went for Frémont.

In the race for governor, King won over his opponents, though the combined Parker and Brooks vote exceeded that for King. In this election Gerrit Smith received 165 votes for governor. King carried every county in Central New York, Parker being second in all but Cayuga, which gave over two thousand votes for Brooks. The congressional elections resulted in the reëlection of Orsamus Matteson, Henry Bennett, Amos Granger and Edwin B. Morgan. In the Madison district, Henry C. Goodwin of Hamilton was elected. All these gentlemen were Republicans, though a few appear under the old name of Whig.

A few days after Buchanan's inauguration, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its weighty decision in the Dred Scott Case, all of which greatly strengthened the hands of the Republicans. In addition, the question of admitting Kansas to the Union as a free state also helped this party. Nevertheless, in spite of all the noise and turmoil over slavery, a fusion of Native Americans and dissatisfied Democrats made definite gains in the New York elections of 1857. With these contests behind them the parties girded themselves for the gubernatorial campaign of 1858, which was waged amid the effects of a nation-wide depression. After much wire-pulling, Weed succeeded in having Edwin B. Morgan nominated for governor on the Republican ticket. The Democrats named Parker again, and the Native Americans put up Lorenzo Burrows. Finally, the abolitionists, thoroughly dissatisfied with the refusal of the Republicans to take a bolder stand on the slavery issue, nominated Gerrit Smith. Smith garnered but 5470 votes in the entire State, of which 1462 came from Central New York, Madison leading with 636 votes. Burrows ran a poor third in this contest, gaining some sixty thousand votes of which 4040 were from Central New York. Parker was defeated by Morgan, Central New York giving the latter 40,092 votes to Parker's 26,705; Parker did not carry a single county. Congressmen elected in the Republican landslide included Roscoe Conkling of Utica for the Oneida district over his Democratic opponent, who was 2833 votes behind. The Onondaga district elected Charles B. Sedgwick, Republican from Syracuse, by a twenty-two hundred majority over his Democratic opponent. Alfred Wells of Ithaca won in the

Tompkins district, R. H. Duell of Cortlandville in the Chenango-Cortland district, and Moses L. Lee of Fulton, Oswego County, captured the district of which Madison was a part. Martin Butterfield of Palmyra won the Cayuga seat. All of these men were Republicans and held their seats until March, 1861. In spite of the Republican victories their majorities were less than in 1856, convincing evidence that the Democrats were still a party to be reckoned with.

New York played an important rôle in the hectic political campaign of 1860 in which slavery and secession were the leading issues. Concerning the activities of its many politicians like Thurlow Weed, Fernando Wood, Horace Greeley and Central New York's own William H. Seward, reference may be had to the recently published *History of the State of New York*. Suffice it here to say that the Republicans, after passing by Seward who wanted the nomination, named Abraham Lincoln of Illinois. In the meantime, the Democrats floundered right and left, and finally split into two parties. One of these, composed chiefly of northern Democrats, named Stephen A. Douglas and stood pat on the principle of popular sovereignty. The other, largely southern, nominated John C. Breckinridge and advocated Federal recognition of slavery within the states and territories. Realizing the magnitude of feeling over the slavery issue, a number of old-line Whigs, and what was left of the Native Americans, nominated John Bell as a fourth candidate. Lincoln's supporters in New York named Edwin B. Morgan for governor, the Douglas Democrats, William Kelley, and the Breckinridge Democrats, James T. Brady.

The election that followed was fought stubbornly in every section of the State. Never before had the electorate seen such a contest. Every village, city and county echoed with the heat and din of the conflict which, in Central New York, attracted unheard of interest. Utica, Ithaca, Syracuse, Rome and the other urban centers held one demonstration after another. Parades, torch light processions and the beating of drums were seen and heard throughout the fall. Local political bosses and candidates for Albany and Washington toured the rural and urban areas and urged all to come out and vote. Newspaper after newspaper carried bitter editorials and freely indulged in personalities. Finally, after the balloting was over, it was discovered that Lincoln had been elected.

In Central New York he received 51,888 to his rivals 31,827, every county going for him with good majorities. Only in Tompkins did the opposition make a good showing. Morgan was reëlected governor, carrying every county in the Inland Empire; his majority over his opponents was 18,678. Lincoln's election was the signal for armed opposition in the South, and the way was paved for the Civil War.





## CHAPTER XIII

### THE CIVIL WAR





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### *The Civil War*

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THE election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States was followed, in December, 1860, by the secession of South Carolina. Other Southern States soon took the same step and by February of the new year, the Confederate States of America had come into being. Later, in April, came the capture of Fort Sumter. Truly, the rain at Harper's Ferry had turned into a hurricane. The South had picked up the gauntlet and would fight to stay *out* of the Union. And what of the North? In practically every town and almost on every farm there arose the voice of a determined people—secession would be met by war. The Union must and would be saved. The startling news of the fall of Fort Sumter reached Central New York on Sunday, April 14th. The very next day local newspapers carried Lincoln's call for seventy thousand men. Intense excitement reigned at once and in Syracuse Captain John G. Butler and his company of Zouaves entrained that day for Albany. Similar scenes were enacted at Auburn, Rome and the other cities of Central New York, and many farmers hastened to town to find out what was going on and what they could do to help save the Union. Party lines that but a few months before had been sharply drawn now seemed to be forgotten. The country was at war—there was no time for political debate and contest.

At the outbreak of this war the military of the State was composed of some eight divisions of militia, numbering in all less than nineteen thousand men and officers, plus a few voluntary organizations like Butler's Zouaves. Realizing the gravity of the situation the authorities at Albany immediately ordered twelve

militia regiments to the front, and issued a call for twenty thousand men to serve for two years. And as the war progressed, and in conformity with requests for more men from Washington, additional calls for volunteers were made. Federal and State bounties, supplemented by local contributions, and the creation of local relief boards to care for the indigent and needy, aided in the raising of these troops. Later, in 1863 and 1864 came the drafts and while there was some criticism of this procedure in Central New York no riots took place as at New York City. Finally, it should be mentioned that a number of camps were erected throughout the State, such as those at Rome, Syracuse, Norwich and Auburn. For purposes of organization it seems best to discuss the efforts of each county by itself.

#### ONONDAGA

Butler's Zouaves, numbering less than eighty men, became part of the Third Regiment of New York Volunteers and, after spending some time at Albany, was sent to the front. It saw action at the Battles of Big Bethel and Bull Run, and then was assigned to garrison duty at Fort McHenry near Baltimore. Originally enlisted for a period of two years, it was reorganized in May, 1863, for three years and was mustered out of service in August, 1865. At the time of its reorganization, Butler was assigned to the One Hundred and Forty-seventh Regiment, of which he soon became colonel.

Shortly after the departure of Butler's Zouaves for Albany and in answer to Lincoln's call for volunteers, the Twelfth Regiment of Volunteers was formed in Onondaga under the command of Colonel Ezra L. Walrath. It consisted of ten companies hurriedly recruited from Syracuse and neighboring villages and towns; Morris H. Church, Jacob Brand, Dennis Driscoll, George W. Stone, Jabez M. Brower, Milo W. Locke, Joseph C. Irish, George W. Cole, Henry Barnum and Augustus J. Root were the captains. This regiment, commonly called the Onondaga Regiment, remained at Syracuse until early May when it was sent to Elmira for additional training. Here it was officially mustered into Federal service for three years and left for Washington on June 2nd. In the middle of July it crossed over into Virginia and engaged in a skirmish with the enemy. Charles B. Sedgwick, Onondaga's Representative at Washington, was elated over the event and wrote



home as follows: "The F.F.V.'s (fleet-footed Virginians) ran as usual and we only captured some half-eaten breakfasts, some undrank whiskey and untaken medicine. They seem to have no



AERIAL VIEW OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS WITH CAYUGA LAKE IN BACKGROUND  
(Courtesy of Cornell University)

stomach for a fight and it will turn out as I have always predicted that we shall have no real fighting until we approach Richmond and very likely not much there."

Sedgwick's optimism was so great that he joined with the throng of Congressmen and public officials who drove out from Washington to witness the Battle of Bull Run. He arrived in time to see the rout of the Federal troops — fleet-footed Virginians chased the flower of the North, including the Onondaga Regiment, back to their entrenchments at Arlington. "The Onon. Regt.," so Sedgwick



wrote home, "is in a very bad way. I had to work hard to prevent their being sent home in disgrace . . . The officers are jealous of each other and most of them inefficient. There never has been any police or discipline in their camp." Sedgwick's comments probably applied equally well to most of the troops at that time and goes far toward explaining the Southern victory.

After Bull Run, the Onondaga Regiment remained at Washington for some time where it was reformed into five companies. In February, 1862, it was joined with five companies of the Twelfth New York Militia, and was sent to Yorktown where it saw some service. It fought through the Seven Days' Battle in General Polk's campaign in Virginia and lost 143 men, killed, wounded and missing, at the Second Battle of Bull Run. During the Antietam engagement it was held in reserve, but at Fredericksburg was in the thick of it, being the last to retire under Confederate fire. This was the end of the war for the old Twelfth for, after spending some time in camp, it was sent to Elmira where it was mustered out of service in May, 1863.

In the meantime there had been formed, at Hancock, a regiment under command of Colonel Enrico Fardella, recruited in the Counties of Delaware and Onondaga; this may explain why it was known as the "Union Brigade." Officially known as the One Hundred and First Volunteer Regiment, this unit left for Washington in March, 1862, and during the course of the year saw service at the Seven Days' Battle and at the engagements at Groveton, Bull Run and Fredericksburg. In December, it was transferred to the Thirty-seventh New York Regiment and shortly thereafter was mustered out of service.

Lincoln's call for three hundred thousand men in 1862 was answered in Onondaga by the formation of the One Hundred and Twenty-second Regiment. Recruits were obtained from Lysander, Van Buren, Clay, Syracuse, Cicero and other towns. Its commanding officer was Silas Titus and among its captains were John M. Dwight, Noah B. Kent, Lucius Moses and Augustus W. Dwight. Mustered into service for three years at Syracuse, in August, 1862, it left the State and was assigned to the Sixth Army Corps. Although under fire at Antietam, where it suffered no losses, it did not see real action until the following month when it successfully resisted an attack by Stewart's cavalry. During the remainder

of the year it remained relatively quiet, though it suffered slight losses in December. As part of the Army of the Potomac it marched in April, 1863, toward Fredericksburg where it was engaged, as well as at Salem Church, a few days later. In June it was part of the division that crossed the Rappahannock and in July lost some 44 men at Gettysburg. It then received a well-earned rest and remained in camp until early November, when it helped to carry the Confederate lines at Rappahannock Station, where it lost 13 men. During the first few months of 1864 it did garrison duty over Confederate prisoners at Sandusky, Ohio, but in April was back at the front under General Grant. From then on it was in the thick of the fight, rendering valuable aid at Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Winchester. After the collapse of the South it marched through Richmond and Washington and was mustered out in June, 1865.

Another regiment, mustered into service for three years in September, 1862, was the One Hundred and Forty-ninth, under Colonel M. Barnum of Syracuse. Its captains included Nicholas Grumbach, James Lynch, J. Forman Wilkinson, Ira B. Seymour, Judson H. Graves, E. G. Townsend, Robert E. Hopkins, David J. Lindsay, James E. Doren and Solomon Light. Light's company was composed of Jews, and Grumbach's almost entirely of Germans, many from the north side of Syracuse. After a brief stay at Harper's Ferry, the regiment was moved from one point to another and it was not until the spring of 1863 that it was under fire at Chancellorsville. Later, it joined in following Lee's troops as they marched into Pennsylvania, participated in the defense of Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, and then followed Lee as the Southern troops withdrew. Following this campaign and under the command of General H. W. Slocum, it was transferred to the western theater of the war, suffered terribly at Wauhatchie Valley, and gallantly took part in the attack on Lookout Mountain. During the winter of 1863-1864 it remained in camp, but in the spring joined with Sherman in his march to the sea. It saw active service at Peach Tree Creek and was at the siege of Savannah. In April, 1865, while at Raleigh, it heard of Lee's surrender and with that its days of fighting were over. It was mustered out of service at Bladensburg, Maryland, in June, 1865.

Last among the infantry units raised in Onondaga was the One Hundred and Eighty-fifth under command of Colonel Edwin S. Jenny. Among its captains were Stephen O. Howard, John Listman, Henry D. Carhart, Daniel N. Lathrop, Robert P. Bush, John W. Strowbridge, Albert H. Barber, Daniel Christler, Jared F. Abbott and Abram H. Spore. Most of its men were recruited from Onondaga and Cortland and were mustered into service for one year in August, 1864. It was rushed to the front and was in action at Poplar Grove by October. Later it was stationed outside of Petersburg and was in several minor engagements. In early December it was fighting at Weldon Railroad, and in February, 1865, suffered losses at Hatcher's Run. During the two months that followed it was under fire at Fort Steadman and at Quaker Farm. By this time Lee's attempt to escape Grant had failed and it was at Appomattox Church in time to witness Lee's surrender. On June 3rd it arrived at Syracuse where, after a great reception, it was mustered out of service.

In addition to these units, Onondaga men were in the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth, One Hundred and Eighty-seventh, One Hundred and Ninety-third and One Hundred and Ninety-fourth Regiments. Two artillery companies were formed in Onondaga. One of these, recruited by Captain Rufus D. Pettit, entered service at Baldwinsville, August, 1861. So well equipped and captained was this battery that in the spring of 1862 it received its baptism of fire at Warrenton Junction, and in June, covered itself with glory at Fair Oaks. Throughout the remainder of the war, Pettit's battery was in constant service, chiefly in Virginia. Its roll of encounters includes Antietam, Gettysburg, Malvern Hill, Mine Run, Spottsylvania and Chancellorsville. It was mustered out of service in June, 1865. Equally significant was the battery organized by Captain E. S. Jenny which did gallant service in the campaigns in North and South Carolina. Mention should also be made of the Fifteenth Cavalry, part of which was recruited from Onondaga.

#### ONEIDA

Loyalty to the Federal Government was expressed in this county as early as February, 1861, when several meetings were held in Utica in support of the national authorities. At one of these



gatherings no less than five hundred leading citizens pledged themselves to assist the government, come what may. And when news reached Utica, Rome and the other communities of the county that Fort Sumter had been attacked and that Lincoln had called for volunteers, the reaction was most decided and emphatic. At Utica, General H. R. White threw open the regimental hall for volunteer companies, while the recruits under Colonel William H. Christian drilled and paraded through the streets. At Rome, Captain Skillen raised a company of volunteers that was accepted for duty before the close of April. All during this month enthusiastic meetings were held throughout the county to encourage enlistment and to provide for the families of soldiers.

The first complete unit to be raised in Oneida County was the Fourteenth Regiment of New York Volunteers, locally known as the First Oneida Regiment. Organized at Utica under Colonel James McQuade, it included five companies recruited from that city and one each from Rome, Boonville, Syracuse, Lowville and Hudson. In May, 1861, this regiment was reorganized at Albany where it was sworn into service for a period of two years. A month later it left for Washington and for a time was stationed at Meriden Hill. In July it became part of the Army of Northeastern Virginia and after some time at Arlington Heights went into winter quarters at Miner's Hill. Early in the spring of 1862 it was transferred to the Army of the Potomac and received its first real taste of war during the Peninsular Campaign. It was in active service during the Seven Days' Battle and was held in reserve during the engagement at Antietam. At Fredericksburg it suffered serious losses, after which it received a well-earned rest at Falmouth. In May, 1863, the regiment was mustered out at Utica except for its three-year men who were assigned to the Forty-fourth Regiment and later to the One Hundred and Fortieth Regiment of New York Volunteers. During the course of the war the Fourteenth lost a total of one hundred and twenty-nine men, of whom eighty-five died from wounds.

Shortly after the departure of the Fourteenth Regiment for the front, Colonel William H. Christian organized the Twenty-sixth Regiment of Volunteers, often called the Second Oneida Regiment. Six of its companies were recruited from Oneida, two from Monroe, and one each from Madison and Tioga Counties. It was mustered

into service for two years at Elmira in May, 1861, left for Washington the following month, encamped at Meriden Hill and then



1939 VIEW OF PART OF BUILDINGS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA  
(SAME VIEWPOINT AS IN 1870 BUT HIGHER ELEVATION)

*(Courtesy of De Wilt Historical Society of Tompkins County)*

took up quarters at Alexandria. During the winter it was at Fort Lyon and in the spring of 1862 was assigned to the Army of Virginia. It served under General Pope in the Virginian Campaign and suffered losses at the Second Battle of Bull Run. In the fall of the same year it was attached to the Army of the Potomac and



was in the battle at Fredericksburg. During the winter it encamped at Belle Plain and participated in the Battle of Chancellorsville in the spring of 1863. After that it moved north and in May of that year was mustered out of service at Utica. One hundred and eight of its men died in battle and from wounds; forty-two died from other causes.

During the early fall of 1861 a regimental camp was established at Boonville under Colonel Charles Wheelock. Known as Conkling's Rifles this unit, which was formed of men from Oneida and Herkimer Counties, was mustered into service for three years in February, 1862. Officially styled the Ninety-seventh Regiment of Volunteers, this outfit left for Washington in the spring of 1862 and was quartered at Fort Corcoran under General Wadsworth until May. It was then assigned to the Department of the Rappahannock and was in the engagement at Cedar Mountain. During the Manassas Campaign it suffered heavily and fought at South Mountain and Antietam. Later it was at Fredericksburg, Bristol Station and Mine Run. In June, 1864, it received replacements from the Eighty-third New York Regiment and in August from the Ninth New York Regiment, and then served throughout Grant's famous campaign. It saw action at the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Appomattox. By this time the war was all but over and in July, 1865, it was mustered out near Washington, D. C. During the course of the war it lost one hundred and eighty-two men in battle and from wounds, and one hundred and fifty-seven from other causes.

During October, 1861, General H. R. White established a regimental camp at Utica, but the project for raising a regiment did not materialize. About the same time another camp was founded at Rome under Colonel O. B. Pierce and a part of the Eighty-first Regiment of Volunteers was raised here. Rome was also the headquarters for the One Hundred and Seventeenth Regiment of Volunteers which was organized by Colonel William R. Pease, most of its recruits coming from Oneida County. It was mustered into service in August, 1862, for three years, and left the State late in the same month, being stationed in Maryland until April, 1863. During that year it was ordered to Suffolk, Virginia, and took a part in the Peninsular Campaign, after which it became a part of the Department of the South and was at the siege of



Fort Wagner. In April, 1864, it was moved to Virginia and joined General Butler's Army of the James. As such it was at the Battles of Swift Creek, Drewry's Bluff and Bermuda Hundred. Later it took part in the assault on the defenses of Petersburg and was at Fort Harrison and Fort Fisher where losses were sustained. February, 1865, found it fighting at Cape Fear and in the spring was in General Terry's Carolina Campaign. After this it remained at Raleigh, North Carolina, and its men honorably discharged in June, 1865. During its life the regiment lost nine officers and one hundred and twenty-nine men on the field of battle and from wounds; one hundred and thirty-six died from other causes.

Rome was also the place for the organization of the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Regiment under command of Colonel Kenner Garrard. Locally called the Fifth Oneida Regiment or Garrard's Tigers, it was recruited largely from Oneida County. Mustered into Federal service for three years in October, 1862, it left the State and joined with the Army of the Potomac; later it was at the Battle of Fredericksburg. It also fought at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and subsequently saw action at Mine Run, Bristol Station and Rappahannock. In July, 1865, it was mustered out of service at Washington. Its total enlistment had amounted to 1707 men, of which seven officers and one hundred and twenty-six men made the supreme sacrifice. One hundred and eighty-nine died from other causes.

The Second Heavy Artillery also was organized at Utica in 1861, most of its men coming from Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Many Oneida men enlisted in other regiments, notably the One Hundred and Sixty-fourth, the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth, the One Hundred and Ninety-second, the One Hundred and Ninety-third and the Fifty-seventh. The Twenty-fourth Cavalry and the First and Fourteenth Artillery Units came from Oneida, while men from Utica helped to form Battery A of the First Regiment of Light Artillery.

#### CHENANGO

During the Civil War the only regiment organized in this county was the One Hundred and Fourteenth. Norwich having been named as the recruiting center for the 23rd Senatorial District, which comprised Chenango, Madison and Cortland Counties, repre-

sentatives of the same gathered at that village in late July, 1862, to arrange for an infantry regiment. Elisha B. Smith was chosen colonel and with his help 240 men were raised in Chenango, and 396 in both Madison and Cortland. S. R. Per Lee was second in command, and Henry R. Morse was major. The original captains were Oscar H. Curtis, Jacob S. Bockee, Platt Titus, W. P. Wexford, Ransom McDonald, Charles H. Colwell, Charles E. Tucker, Dyer D. Bullock, H. S. Wheeler and Seneca Lake. Mustered into service for three years this outfit left for Binghamton in September, 1862. After a short stay at Baltimore, the regiment went to Newport News, after which it became a part of Bank's Louisiana Army. During 1863 and most of 1864 it operated in Louisiana, though in the fall of 1864 it fought at Fisher's Hill, Woodstock, Nineveh and other places in Virginia. It was mustered out near Washington in June, 1865. During the war it lost four officers and sixty-four men in battle, five officers and fifty men from wounds, and two officers and one hundred and sixty men from other causes.

Company H of the Seventeenth Regiment of Volunteers, commonly known as the Westchester Chasseurs, was recruited at Norwich, its officers being James Tyrrell, Joel O. Martin, Elias Pellet and Arthur M. Sanford. Company E of the Eighty-ninth Regiment was recruited at Norwich, the officers being William B. Guernsey, Henry C. Roome, George Ballou, Frederick Davenport, William Harris and C. J. Reed. Organized at Elmira this outfit left the State in December, 1861, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac the following spring. During 1862 it operated at South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg, and in the spring of 1863 was at the siege of Suffolk. The next year it was at Petersburg and Richmond and during 1865 was in the Appomattox Campaign. It was mustered out in August, 1865. George M. Tillson, Matthew B. Ludington, George Slater and Henry O. Jewell were the officers from Chenango in charge of Company K of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment which was formed at Elmira for three years. This company was recruited from the towns of Norwich, Columbus, Guilford, Sherburne and Cazenovia, and left the State in December, 1862, being assigned to the Department of the Gulf. During 1863 and 1864 it operated throughout Louisiana, and was in Alabama during 1865. In September, 1865, it was mustered out at Fort Jefferson, Florida.

Chenango also furnished men for the Tenth Cavalry, frequently spoken of as Porter's Guard. Company K had men in it from Oxford, McDonough, Coventry, Greene, Steuben, Preston and Unadilla; Company L from Pitcher, and Company M from Oxford, German and Pitcher. The regiment lost heavily during the engagements in 1863 and 1864, especially at Totopotomoy, Virginia. Nine officers and ninety-seven men died in battle or from wounds, and one officer and one hundred and fifty-one men died from other causes. Officers from Chenango included Wheaton Loomis and Benjamin Lounsbury, both of Oxford, and L. D. Burdick of McDonough. Company L of the Twenty-second Cavalry was recruited from Plymouth, Norwich, Oxford, Greene and German, its officers being Henry S. Vaughan and Marvin R. Sherwood of Pitcher and William H. Conover from Norwich. Charles D. Follett of Pitcher and A. S. Kinney of Sherburne were officers in Company K of the Eighth Cavalry, often called the Rochester Regiment. This company was recruited from Norwich, Pitcher, Pharsalia and Sherburne. Both the Eighth and Twenty-second Cavalry Regiments saw active service during 1862, 1863 and 1864, notably in the Raid to South Side.

#### CAYUGA

At the outbreak of the Civil War the Forty-ninth Regiment of Militia was stationed at Auburn under command of Colonel John A. Dodge. This regiment was immediately accepted by the State for war service and enlistment centers were opened at Auburn, Moravia, Weedsport and Union Springs. It left the State for the front in June, 1861, and in December was converted into the Third Artillery, prior to which it had been known as the Nineteenth Regiment of Volunteers. Most of the men in Batteries A to K, inclusive, were recruited from Auburn, Moravia, Weedsport, Union Springs and neighboring communities. The other batteries were formed of men from New York City, Ithaca and villages and cities in Onondaga, Madison and Oneida Counties. The following officers enlisted from Cayuga: Richard J. Allen, George B. Andrews, George E. Ashley, Patrick Coleman, J. F. Dennis, J. S. Fuller, Rosewell Miller—all from Auburn—William H. Chase from Union Springs, and Edward E. Coffinger and William Richardson from Weedsport. This list is by no means complete, but it gives a fair sampling of



the officers. During 1862 and 1863 the Third Artillery operated chiefly in North Carolina; the following two years in Virginia. It lost one officer and twenty-one men in battle or from wounds in contrast to four officers and two hundred and eighty-three men from other causes. Most of the members of this artillery unit were mustered out in May, 1863, though the regiment was filled up with replacements and continued to serve until the close of the war.

Originally established as the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment of Volunteers, or the Second Cayuga Regiment, in September, 1862, this unit was converted into the Ninth Regiment of Heavy Artillery in December of the same year; its term of service being placed at three years. Battery C had men in from Conquest, Cato and Victory; Battery E from Venice, Auburn, Scipio, Niles, Summerhill, Fleming and Montezuma; Battery F from Auburn, Niles, Owasco, Sennett, Lansing, Mentz and Aurelius; Battery H from Victory, and Battery I from Auburn, Owasco and Sennett. Some of the officers of these units were Cyrus Acker and J. M. Allen from Cato, Loyal W. Alden, A. J. Bixby and M. B. Barber from Auburn, W. E. Allen from Genoa, B. F. Barnes from Scipio, L. C. Comstock from Fleming, Charles Cowell and Almon Holcom from Conquest, Oscar A. Foote from Ira, Charles W. Hough from Venice, E. Stafford from Mentz and V. A. Kenyon from Sempronius. The Ninth Artillery left the State in September, 1862, and was in the battles at Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Cedar Creek. It lost five officers and one hundred and nine men in battle, two officers and eighty-seven from wounds, and five officers and two hundred and forty-seven men from other causes. The regiment was mustered out in July, 1865.

The Twenty-fourth Cavalry Regiment was organized at Auburn during the winter of 1863 and 1864. Men from Auburn were in Companies B, C, L and M, while recruits from Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and other counties filled out these and other companies. The regiment left the State in February, 1864, and after a stay at Washington was hurried forward to take part in the Battle of Cold Harbor. It was also present at the attack on Petersburg and at Poplar Spring, Virginia, in 1865. Among its officers, James Marqueson, Norman Palmer and Benjamin F. Sweet were from Auburn.

Colonel John A. Dodge of Auburn organized the Seventy-fifth Infantry Regiment during the fall of 1861 when it was mustered in at Auburn for three years, minus Company K which was not formed until June, 1862. A second Company K was created in 1864. Recruited largely from Cayuga and Seneca Counties, this regiment left the State in December, 1861. During the next year it saw some service in Florida and Louisiana. 1863 was spent in Louisiana and in 1864, after the Red River Campaign, it was moved into Virginia. In December of that year its three-year men were mustered out at Auburn. The regiment lost three officers and thirty men in battle, one officer and forty-two men from wounds, and one hundred men from other causes. Among its officers were L. C. Carpenter, John Choate, William H. Clemence, Fred Cossum and John A. Dodge of Auburn, Erastus E. Brown of Moravia, Jesse Baxter of Victor, J. N. Chamberlain of Sennett, Jehiel Clark of Port Byron, Thomas Clark of Montezuma, Andrew W. Corning of Scipio, L. G. Draper of Summerhill and Charles Drew of Weedsport.

Another regiment, the One Hundred and Eleventh, was mustered into service for three years at Auburn in August, 1862. General Jesse Segoine of Auburn organized this unit of which Companies C, F, G, H, I and K, had recruits from Auburn, Victory, Montezuma, Summerhill, Sterling, Port Byron, Weedsport, Genoa, Cato, Ira, Conquest, Moravia, Venice, Locke, Ledyard, Niles, Scipio and Sempronius. The regiment left the State in August, 1862, and saw action the following month at Harper's Ferry. During 1863 it was engaged at Gettysburg, and was in the assault on Petersburg in 1864. It also took an active part in the Appomattox Campaign of 1865. In June of that year it was mustered out of service at Alexandria, Virginia. It lost eight officers and one hundred and fifty men in battle, two officers and sixty-five men from wounds, and two officers and one hundred and seventy-seven men from other causes. Among the officers the following were from Cayuga: E. A. Thomas, B. W. Thompson, J. B. Drake, L. W. Hush and M. W. Murdock of Auburn, James Donahue of Victor, J. W. Lockwood of Port Byron, and G. C. Bradley of Genoa. Mention should also be made of Lt. Colonel Seneca B. Smith of Auburn.

Colonel C. C. Dwight recruited Companies A, C, E, F, H and I from Auburn, Moravia, Locke, Summerhill, Sempronius, Sennett,

Owasco, Victor, Sterling and Venice to help form the One Hundred and Sixtieth Infantry which was mustered into service at New York City for three years in November, 1862. The following month it left the State and was sent at once to Louisiana where it served during 1863 and part of 1864. It was mustered out of service at Savannah, Georgia, in 1865, having lost four officers and forty men in battle, two officers and thirteen men from wounds and two officers and one hundred and fifty-eight men from other causes. Among its officers were G. W. Allen, D. H. Armstrong, Allen L. Burr, J. B. Burrod, H. P. Underhill, W. J. Van Deusen and J. B. Van Petten of Auburn, and E. G. Howell of Summerhill.

#### CORTLAND

Colonel Nelson W. Green of Cortland undertook the organization of the Seventy-sixth Regiment of Volunteers which was composed of recruits from what was called the Cortland and the Cherry Valley Regiments. Companies A to G were from Cortland. This unit left the State in January, 1862, and was assigned to General Pope under whom it served throughout that year. In 1863 it was at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and in 1864 at Petersburg and the Battle of the Wilderness. During 1865 it operated in Virginia. It lost seven officers and one hundred and eleven men in battle, five officers and fifty-two men from wounds, and one officer and one hundred and sixty-five men from other causes. Among its officers were John H. Ballard, William Cahill, C. H. George and Thomas Simms of Cortlandville, John H. Barnard of Preble, S. M. Byram of Virgil, Hubert Carpenter and Henry Cliff of Dryden, James L. Goddard of Truxton, T. C. Guernsey of Freetown, and James C. Hatch of Groton. Somewhat earlier in its organization was the Twenty-third Regiment, often known as the Southern Tier Rifles. This was formed at Elmira by Colonel Henry C. Hoffman in May, 1861, for two years. It left the State in July, 1861, and its operations were chiefly limited to Virginia, where it lost two officers and seventy men from all causes. It was discharged in 1863 at Elmira. Company H of this unit was recruited from Cortland, and of its officers, Martin C. Clark, Alvah B. Waters, B. B. Andrews and L. F. Hathaway were of that county.



In September, 1862, Colonel Philip P. Brown organized the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Regiment of Volunteers at Hamilton in Madison County. Enlisted for three years, it was mustered out at Charlestown, South Carolina, in 1865, after having seen action at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and in South Carolina. It lost five officers and fifty men in battle, including Lt. Colonel G. W. Arrowsmith. Two officers and forty men died from wounds, and two officers and one hundred and four men died from other causes. Company A was chiefly recruited from Hamilton, Madison, Sherburne and Georgetown, Company B from Oneida City, Company C from Hamilton, Cincinnatus, Marathon, Cuyler, Taylor, Willet, Solon, Freetown and Pitcher, Company D from Scott, Preble and Homer, Company E from Cortland, Virgil, Eaton and Madison, Company G from Canastota, Lenox, Clockville, Wampsville, Oneida and Hamilton, Company H from Homer, Truxton, Cortlandville, Company I from Sullivan, Smithfield, Hamilton, and Company K from Cortlandville, Marathon, Harford, Freetown and Virgil. Among its officers from Cortland County were J. C. Atwater of Scott, J. W. Benjamin, H. H. Curtiss and F. J. Wright of Cortlandville, I. N. Bowen of Homer, Clark Pierce of Marathon, William Saxton of Cincinnatus, and H. C. Tallman of Preble.

Although called the Sixth Onondaga Regiment, the One Hundred and Eighty-fifth had recruits from Cortland. Company E was formed of men from Homer, Cortlandville, Truxton and Taylor, Company F had enlistments from Cortlandville, Virgil and Taylor, and Company G was formed of men from Marathon, Freetown, Willet and Cincinnatus. Organized at Syracuse for one year in August, 1864, this unit left the State in September and in May, 1865, was mustered out at Washington, having lost two officers and thirty-six men in battle, one officer and twenty-three men from wounds, and three officers and thirty-three men from other causes. Its greatest losses were at Petersburg and in the Appomattox Campaign. Among its officers were D. L. Baker, Harrison Givens, A. J. Lyman and Pembroke Pierce of Cortlandville, Robert P. Bush of Homer and Hiram Clark of Marathon.

#### MADISON

Reference has already been made to the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Regiment of Volunteers which was recruited chiefly

from Madison and Cortland Counties. Among the officers from Madison were B. B. Andrews, J. K. Backus, M. D. Bailey, C. Barston—all of Hamilton—T. C. Barnett and J. A. Campbell of Smithfield, Jerome Forbes of Clockville, F. E. Gates of Lenox, Robert E. Grant of Sullivan, Marshall Hemstreet of Canastota, O. M. Palmer of Oneida, and Nelson R. Smith of Georgetown. In addition to this unit there was the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Regiment of Volunteers formed at Elmira by Colonel W. D. Olmstead in September, 1864. It operated chiefly in Virginia and was mustered out in June, 1865. Company D had men in it from Brookfield and Hamilton, and Company K was recruited largely from Oneida. Among its officers were Darwin E. Hills, Charles H. Searle and William H. Kellogg, all of Brookfield. A part of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Regiment was also recruited from Madison County.

#### TOMPKINS

In November, 1861, there was formed at Elmira the Sixty-fourth Regiment, of which the nucleus was the Sixty-fourth Militia Regiment. Of this unit, Company E was recruited from Ithaca and left the State in December, 1861. During 1862 it was at Fair Oaks, and the Seven Days' Battle; the following year it was at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg; in 1864 it saw action at Petersburg, and in 1865 was in the Appomattox Campaign. Most of the men who had enlisted in 1861 were mustered out in 1864, after which the regiment was reorganized until it was finally discharged in July, 1865. William Glenney, Charles Schutt, Edward C. Marsh and George R. Fish of this unit were from Ithaca.

Then there was the so-called Railroad Brigade, or the One Hundred and Ninth Regiment formed at Binghamton in August, 1862, for three years' service under Colonel Benjamin F. Tracy. Companies A, F and G were recruited from Newfield, Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Trumansburg, Groton, Enfield, Lansing and Ulysses. This unit left the State in late August, 1862, and until 1864 was stationed in and around Washington. During 1864 it was at Cold Harbor, Petersburg and other battles, suffering heavy losses. In 1865 it was operating in Virginia and was mustered out in June at Delaney House, District of Columbia. Jesse A. Ashley and George L. Haines were officers from Caroline. Dryden was represented

by Daniel W. Barton and Martin L. Spear; James R. Bowen and Theodore N. Graham were from Enfield, George H. Bristol from Groton, and Ansel P. Coddington was from Trumansburg.

Companies D, G, I and K of the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh were recruited in part from Ithaca, Caroline, Groton, Ulysses, Newfield and Danby. Formed in September, 1862, by Colonel David Ireland, this regiment took an active part in the Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Chattanooga Campaigns, and in 1864 served in the drive on Atlanta. During 1865 it operated in Virginia, and was mustered out in June of that year in Maryland. It lost four officers and seventy-three men in battle, two officers and forty-three men from wounds, and four officers and one hundred and sixty-five men from other causes. Among its officers, A. L. Bishop, H. W. Ensign, Charles C. Kellogg and James E. Mix were from Ithaca, Hiram Bloomer and Henry Rudy from Ulysses, John J. Cantine and Benjamin F. Osburn from Caroline, Henry G. Hallett from Groton, and Merritt King from Danby.

Harrison Marvin, W. T. George and W. S. Moffatt, all of Dryden, were officers in Company I of the One Hundred and Forty-third Regiment formed at Monticello in 1863. This company was recruited from the town of Dryden. Men from Ithaca, Newfield, Danby and Caroline also helped to form Company I of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth, organized at Elmira in September, 1864. Edwin C. Bowen of Newfield, Davis C. Marshall and W. B. Kinney of Danby, and Charles W. Blackmer of Newfield were officers in this company. Finally, reference should be made to Companies G, H and I of the Fifteenth Cavalry, formed at Syracuse for three years' service under command of Colonel R. M. Richardson. In these companies there were recruits from Ithaca and Caroline.

In Tompkins, as well as in all the counties, there were hundreds of public-spirited men and women who nobly backed up the efforts of those at the front. Large sums of money were raised throughout the Inland Empire to care for the families of soldiers as well as for those who were wounded in battle. Generous bundles of clothing and supplies were sent to the front and in a few cases special agents were sent to the army camps and hospitals to care for the sick, needy and dying. And there was great need for this type of relief as far more men died from sickness and other causes than from



actual gun fire. When the war was over and the troops had been mustered out of service, the memory of their trials and patriotism prompted community after community to raise splendid markers, shafts and monuments in their honor. Most active in this post war work was the Grand Army of the Republic, whose many posts throughout the country played an important rôle in the Decoration Day parades and celebrations for decades to follow.



## CHAPTER XIV

POLITICAL ACTIVITY—1860-1900





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### *Political Activity*

### *1860-1900*

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THE outbreak of the Civil War in the spring of 1861 forced both Republicans and Democrats in New York to reconsider their positions. Meeting at Syracuse in September of that year the Democrats, after some debate, endorsed a series of resolutions that had been outlined in a speech by Francis Kernan of Utica. The Federal Government's prosecution of the war was approved but the objectives of this contest, it was declared, should in no wise include emancipation of the colored population. At the same time abolitionist sentiment in the North was condemned. Surely, the Democratic Party could not be charged with treason even though it took a position opposed to the radical elements within the Republican Party. In the meantime the latter, under Weed, were talking of a "Union" party and many outstanding Democrats, such as Dix and Dickinson, favored this idea which was predicated upon the principle that party strife should be forgotten during the war. There were some Republicans, however, who questioned a union with their former foes, but after the Unionist Convention at Syracuse in September, which nominated a Union ticket, these doubters largely fell into line. The net result of this combination spelled utter defeat for the Democrats who lost every contest except that for Canal Commissioner.

Flushed by these successes the Unionists prepared for the gubernatorial contest of 1862. Crafty leaders pointed to Dix as the logical candidate and his banners were waving high when the party met at Troy in September. Not to be outsmarted, Dean

Richmond, a prominent Democrat, sent a delegation to Troy that upset the Unionists and gained the nomination of Horatio Seymour. To the Republicans it looked as though Richmond had gained control of the Unionists' organization and when the Democrats at Albany also named Seymour they bolted the Unionists' ranks and ran General James S. Wadsworth. Wadsworth's brilliant military record made him a strong candidate. On the other hand, Seymour's record at Albany, where he had served as a member of the Legislature and Governor, to say nothing of his mayoralty at Utica, was not to be discounted. The campaign that followed was fought with great energy but when it was over Seymour had been elected by nearly eleven thousand votes. In Central New York, Seymour did not carry a single county and that in spite of the fact that he won the three important cities of Rome, Utica and Syracuse. The Republicans in Central New York carried every congressional district except Oneida, where Francis Kernan defeated Roscoe Conkling by a vote of 9943 to 9845—a majority of but 98.

Seymour's administration was viewed by many as tinged with pro-Southern attitudes and for this reason he was often called a "Copperhead." History does not endorse this conclusion, though there can be no doubt but that it played a large rôle in the State elections of 1863 in which the Democrats suffered considerably. That party, therefore, was handicapped as it went into the campaign of 1864, a presidential year. Confident of success, the Unionists gave scant attention to the demands of Gerrit Smith who wished the party to condemn Lincoln's policies, ignored the group who sponsored General Frémont, who had many friends in Central New York, and proceeded to endorse Lincoln at a State convention that met at Syracuse in May of that year. Similar activities in other states led to Lincoln's renomination. In the meantime the Democrats had not been idle and hoped that Governor Seymour would accept the nomination; his refusal resulted in the naming of General McClellan. Seymour also declined the nomination for governor but finally yielded to his friends and accepted the responsibility; his opponent being Reuben E. Fenton of Jamestown. Nominations also were made for Congress, the State Legislature and local offices.

Students of American history will recall how low Lincoln's stock fell during the summer and early fall of 1864 and there was doubt



at that time as to his re-election. However, when the balloting was over, Lincoln had won, carrying New York by less than seven thousand votes. In Central New York, Lincoln won every county though his majority in Oneida was only 1132, both Rome and Utica going for McClellan. Fenton ran slightly ahead of Lincoln in the



STATE STREET, ITHACA

*(Courtesy of De Witt Historical Society of Tompkins County)*

State, being elected by over eight thousand votes. Fenton carried all the counties of Central New York by majorities that ranged from fifteen hundred to thirty-one hundred. On the other hand, Rome and Utica supported Seymour as did Syracuse by the narrow margin of 37 votes. Auburn went for Fenton by some three hundred votes though in Ithaca the result was 887 for Fenton to 839 for Seymour. Fenton's strength, as well as Lincoln's therefore, was in the rural rather than in the urban areas. In the Congressional elections the Unionists carried every seat in Central New York. Demas Hubbard was returned from Chenango, Roscoe Conkling took Kernan's seat by a majority of 300 votes in the Oneida district, Sidney Holmes defeated Albertus Perry by nearly five thousand votes in the Madi-

son district, Thomas T. Davis was re-elected over William C. Ruger of Syracuse in the Cortland-Onondaga district, Theodore Pomeroy of Auburn was also re-elected in the Cayuga area over George W. Cuyler, and in Tompkins, Giles S. Hotchkiss was re-elected over John Magee, 15,543 to 10,846. Needless to say the results of the elections to the Legislature were also highly satisfactory to the Unionists.

Fenton's record at Albany was satisfactory and the Unionists seemed quite confident of the future. Lincoln's death in the spring of 1865, however, caused some internal dissension. A notable group, headed by Seward of Auburn, openly supported President Johnson's reconstruction program, much to the dislike of the radicals who wanted to force negro suffrage upon the Southern States as the price for re-entering the Union. Then there was Gerrit Smith of Peterboro who, having joined hands with Horace Greeley in going bond for Jefferson Davis, wished to aid both whites and blacks in the South with agricultural subsidies. On the other hand, Rev. Samuel J. May, a staunch abolitionist of Syracuse, urged rehabilitation only for the colored population who also should be given the vote at once. And when asked as to the intelligence and ability of the black to vote, May replied, "The African Race will never give birth to a John C. Calhoun, a Jefferson Davis or an Alexander Stephens." But the Unionists paid little attention to either May or Smith, neither of whom was rated as a regular party member.

In opposition to the radicals within the Unionist Party were the Democrats who generally endorsed Johnson's policies and cried out against imposing any restrictions upon the Southern states. The net result of these differences was shown in the State elections of 1865 which were easily won by the Unionists in spite of their own internal difficulties. "Two thirds of the Assembly, and all but one of the Senate were Unionists," according to Dr. Bonham, whose admirable chapter in the *History of the State of New York* has been of much help to the author. Although discouraged, the Democrats were by no means a defeated organization and as the 1866 contests approached some hope was expressed that the tide would swing in their direction.

For governor, the Democrats supported John T. Hoffman of New York City; the Republicans renominating Governor Fenton. Fenton did better than in 1864, carrying the State by nearly thirteen



thousand. Central New York helped to swell his majority, every county being within the Republican fold. Utica and Rome, among the cities, went for Hoffman with their usual Democratic majorities, though Syracuse, which had supported Seymour in 1864, was within the Republican ranks by a majority of 543. Auburn, Cortlandville, Ithaca and the large towns of Lenox and Norwich also went Republican. Once again it was due to the failure of the Democrats to capture the rural vote that Central New York went Unionist. In the Congressional elections much the same results were obtained, each seat being won by a Unionist. Alexander H. Bailey of Rome, Dennis McCarthy of Syracuse and Theodore M. Pomeroy of Auburn were among the successful candidates who resided within the Inland Empire. In the same year Roscoe Conkling was elected United States Senator.

During 1866 and 1867 Northern radicals at Washington found their paths blocked repeatedly by President Johnson, and the failure of the former in their impeachment proceedings against Johnson clearly showed that a reaction was setting in against their reconstruction policies. General Ulysses Grant became their presidential candidate and the party was supremely confident that Horatio Seymour, the nominee of the Democratic Party, did not have a ghost of a chance. For governor, the Democrats nominated John T. Hoffman, Mayor of New York City; the Republicans naming John A. Griswold. Thanks to Tweed's able management both Seymour and Hoffman carried the State, though Grant was elected president. The vote in New York was 419,883 for Grant, 429,883 for Seymour. Tweed's agents, however, could not swing Central New York, not a single county going for Seymour. Grant carried this area by 54,043 votes to Seymour's 38,449. Only in Oneida, Seymour's home, was the vote close, but Grant won by some thirteen hundred votes. Nor was a better showing made by Hoffman who received 38,974 votes to his opponent's 54,081, every county going for Griswold. Griswold carried Auburn, Cortlandville and Syracuse by fair majorities though in Ithaca he won by but 91 votes. Rome and Utica went Democratic as usual. In the rural areas the Republicans did even better than in 1866, and the congressional contests were won without much trouble, the closest race being in Oneida where Alexander H. Bailey gained 12,543 votes to J. Thomas Spriggs' 11,240. Dennis McCarthy of Syracuse





ROBERTS HALL, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF AGRICULTURAL CAMPUS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
(Courtesy of Cornell University)

swept the Onondaga-Cortland district; he and Bailey being the only residents of Central New York elected to Congress in 1868. The other successful candidates, from other counties within the various districts, were all Republicans and included Charles Knapp who won in the Chenango district three thousand votes, George W. Cowles over Elmore P. Rees in the Cayuga district, and Giles Hotchkiss over Alvin Devereaux in the Tompkins district. In the Madison-Oswego district, John C. Churchill defeated Charles Stebbins, 15,761 to 6169, Stebbins receiving but three votes in Madison County.

The State elections of 1869 were not satisfactory to the Republicans, the term Unionists having now been dropped, though they were confident of the contests of 1870. For governor, the Republicans named Stewart L. Woodford of Kings County, the Democrats sponsoring Hoffman again. Although there were many minor issues in this contest the most outstanding one concerned Tammany and the Tweed ring, about which Central New York papers and speakers had much to say. Hoffman was re-elected governor by a majority of over thirty-two thousand, though once again he failed to win a single county within the Inland Empire. This area's devotion to the Republican Party was amply shown, Rome and Utica being the only urban centers to support Hoffman; even then the latter's majority in Utica was but 91. The rural areas went for Woodford by large majorities. In this campaign some 1907 votes were cast for James S. Graham of the Labor Reform Party and 1459 for M. H. Clark, nominee of the Liquor Prohibition Party. How many votes these gentlemen gained in Central New York could not be discovered, though they probably were few in the face of the poor showing made throughout the State at large.

Some notion of the strength of the temperance group may be seen in the contest for Congress in the Madison-Oswego district where Caleb Calkins of Peterboro, backed by his friend, Gerrit Smith, garnered 593 votes. William E. Lansing of Chittenango, Republican, won this seat over his Democratic opponent, M. J. Shoecraft. Republicans were the victors in all the other contests. E. H. Prindle of Norwich gained the Chenango seat, Ellis H. Roberts of Utica was elected in Oneida, and R. Holland Duell of Cortlandville defeated Dennis McCarthy who ran as an Independent Republican with the support of the Democrats in the Cortland-



Onondaga district. John E. Seeley and Milo Goodrich won in Cayuga and Tompkins, respectively.

During the course of the elections between 1860 and 1870 inclusive, reference has been made to the great strength of the Republican Party in the rural areas of Central New York. It may be of interest, however, to note that some towns went Democratic. Aurelius, for example, in Cayuga was won by the Democrats in every gubernatorial contest as was Montezuma, except in 1860. Mentz went Democratic in 1862 and 1870, and Conquest in 1870. In Chenango, Pharsalia was Democratic except in 1862; the same was true of Smithville. McDonough and Greene were Democratic in 1862, 1864, 1866 and 1868; Oxford in 1862 and 1864, Pitcher in 1862, Preston in 1864, 1866 and 1868; and Sherburne in 1862. In Cortland, Solon was Democratic in every contest, Preble in 1862, 1866, 1868 and 1870, Truxton in 1862, 1864, 1866 and 1870, Willet in 1862, 1864, 1868 and 1870, and Cincinnatus in 1870. On the other hand, Sullivan was the only town in Madison that went Democratic, and the latter party carried it in every election. In Onondaga, Elbridge went Democratic from 1862 to 1870 inclusive, Salina in 1862, 1864, 1866 and 1870, Camillus in 1862, and Van Buren in 1868. In Oneida, Lee and Western were Democratic in all elections, Annsville, Florence, Floyd, Marcy and Sangerfield from 1862, 1868 and 1870, inclusive, Deerfield from 1862 to 1868 inclusive, Verona in 1862, 1868 and 1870, Vienna in 1866, Forest Park in 1870, Ava in 1864 and Bridgewater in 1868. In Tompkins, Lansing was Democratic in 1862, and Newfield in 1866 and 1870. The rural areas of Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison and Tompkins, therefore, were predominantly Republican during these years, the Democrats making their best showing in Oneida, Chenango and Cortland.

During 1871 the fortunes of both parties within New York were seriously threatened by internal squabbles. Among the Republicans a three cornered fight developed. First of all there was Horace Greeley, whose bitter editorials in the *Tribune* against Grant's administration, brought him to blows with the latter. Grant's lieutenant in New York was Roscoe Conkling, and the latter lost no time in defending his chief from Greeley's attacks. Then there was ex-Governor Fenton who sought to stem the rising tide of Boss Conkling. Such was the condition when the Republicans gathered



in Weiting Hall, Syracuse, in late September, 1871. Here Conkling and Fenton battled it out with Greeley, pouring hot oil into the wounds the first two were inflicting upon the party. So strenuous did the fight become that the local police had to intervene to prevent fistic encounters among the delegates. And yet when all was over, Conkling emerged the victor and master of the party. A few days later the Democrats met at Rochester to air their dirty linen, made so by the corrupt practices of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall. During the first day's proceedings, Tweed ably resisted the inroads of reformers like Francis Kernan of Utica, former Governor Seymour, and Samuel J. Tilden. "Three troublesome old fools," Tweed called them, but on the morning following, Tweed had to beat a retreat as Tilden forced the convention to repudiate Tweed and his ring. It is interesting to note, however, that Tilden's slate included all of the old Tweed ring except the candidate for Secretary of State. This was hardly a victory for the reformers, though the open rejection of Tweed as an individual constituted a gain. At the same time it brought the story of the Tweed ring out into the open and so the campaign ceased to be a contest between Democrats and Republicans; rather did it become a fight between Tammany and anti-Tammany factions. And since Democracy was tainted with Tammany, the Republicans had little difficulty in gaining the State elections of 1871.

The Tammany exposures, vivid as they were, had not blinded the State or nation to what had been going on in the South. The Republican reconstruction program not only had engendered fierce opposition from the Democrats but led to serious criticism from prominent Republicans. Other issues also fanned the fire. Debate and discussion concerning these matters had waxed strong since 1870 and the loss of Republican seats in Congress showed the declining fortunes of that party. Hoping to save the Grand Old Party from self destruction, a group of reformers—Liberal Republicans they called themselves—gathered at Cincinnati in May, 1872, and after some debate, named Horace Greeley for the presidency. Now the Democrats had been watching this liberal movement with much interest and were hoping that Charles Francis Adams might become the candidate of the new movement. Greeley's nomination was a bitter disappointment to them, for how could they forget his bitter attacks against them in the *Tribune*? And yet, they knew

only too well that their hopes of unseating the Republicans rested with the Liberal Republicans, since none of their own number was capable of turning the trick. Thus it came about that the Democrats finally endorsed Greeley and opened a vigorous attack against Grant who was renominated by the Republicans.

Late in August, 1872, the Republicans at Utica named John A. Dix, Weed's able henchman, for governor. Early the next month the Liberal Republicans as well as the Democrats met for their State conventions at Syracuse. Meeting in Weiting Hall, the latter named Francis Kernan for governor, while the Liberal Republicans, in session at Shakespeare Hall, chose Chauncey M. Depew for lieutenant-governor. "Then came the marriage ceremony, the Liberals—marching over to the Weiting," where both parties hailed Kernan and Depew as their standard bearers. The campaigning that followed was remembered for many a decade. Bitter attacks and counter attacks followed but when the balloting was over, Grant was safe in the White House and the hopes of their opponents had been blasted. Grant carried New York by over fifty-three thousand votes, in Central New York his majority was 15,144; every county going for him. It is interesting to note in passing that in 1868 Grant's majority had been 15,594, while the total votes cast in Central New York in 1868 and 1872 amounted to 92,492 and 92,150 respectively. The voting behaviors of this area, therefore, remained unaltered in spite of all the excitement of the campaign. Among the cities, Grant carried Auburn, Cortlandville, Syracuse, Ithaca and even Utica, and he lost Rome by 82 votes. In the race for governor, Dix swept the State, including Central New York gaining in the latter 53,269 votes to Kernan's 40,092. Kernan received more votes than did Greeley, but Dix had about as many as Grant. Evidently there were some Democrats who would vote for Kernan, but not for Greeley. In the congressional elections the Republicans retained control of all seats in Central New York.

Early the following year a Republican legislature re-elected Conkling United States Senator. Conkling's control over his party was supreme. Greeley, who had continued the fight, had died in September, 1872, while Fenton remained in the background, a defeated leader with only the memories of the past to comfort him. So powerful was Conkling that he did not bother to attend the State convention at Utica in September, 1873, but his trusted



lieutenants—Andrew D. White of Syracuse and Alonzo B. Cornell of Ithaca—saw to it that their master's voice was heard when needed. Nor did they express much concern over the slate adopted by the Democrats at their Utica meeting in early October. Greater interest, however, was shown as the effects of the business depression, then sweeping the country, settled down upon the State. Financial uncertainty and failures plus the repeated criticisms of Grant paved the way for a Democratic victory in the fall elections. Among those chosen was Daniel Pratt of Onondaga, who became attorney general.

During the course of the next few months the various parties made plans for the contests of 1874. The Prohibitionists were the first to hold a convention, gathering at Auburn in June. Here they nominated Myron C. Clarke for governor, J. L. Bagg of Onondaga for lieutenant-governor and Horace V. Howland of Cayuga for judge of the Court of Appeals. Meeting at the same time and in the same city were a group of Temperance Republicans who proceeded to condemn Governor Dix for having vetoed the recently enacted local prohibition measure passed by the State Legislature; these recalcitrant Republicans, however, did not seek to run a ticket of their own. Among the Democrats, none had a better chance for nomination than Samuel J. Tilden, and, at a convention in September at Syracuse, he was named on the first ballot. His opponent was John A. Dix, who also was nominated by the Republicans at Syracuse. Tilden's record as a "ring-buster" was an important and decisive factor, and in spite of all that Conkling, White and Cornell could do, Tilden carried the State by over thirty-eight thousand votes. In Central New York, however, Tilden could not overcome the strong Republican machine though the latter's majority in 1872 of 13,177 was cut down to 5077.

Although it is true that neither party polled as many votes as in 1872, the Republican strength dropped nearly eight times as much as the Democrats. Dix carried Auburn, Cortlandville, Syracuse and the towns of Norwich and Lenox by fair majorities, but lost Rome, Utica and the town of Ithaca. Clarke, the Prohibitionist, gained but 2557 votes in Central New York, which was about one-fifth of his entire poll throughout the State. Clarke garnered most of his votes in Cayuga, Chenango and Onondaga. In the Congressional elections the Republicans retained control of five of



the six seats held by Central New York but with reduced majorities. In Oneida, Scott Lord, a Democrat, defeated Ellis H. Roberts, Republican, by nearly fifteen hundred votes. In Tompkins, Thomas C. Platt, defeated E. F. Jones, Democrat, by but 763 votes; Clinton D. MacDougall of Auburn won over his Democratic opponent, Jacob Wilson, by nearly sixteen hundred votes, though Samuel F. Miller won the Chenango seat from O. M. Allaben by only eleven hundred. In Madison, William H. Baker of Constantia defeated A. S. Warner, Democrat, and E. W. Leavenworth of Syracuse captured the Onondaga-Cortland district from G. F. Comstock. Temperance candidates ran in all Congressional districts except Madison though the combined votes of all were less than three thousand.

During 1875, an off-year in so far as elections were concerned, party interest centered about the contests for the Legislature and certain State offices. Among those nominated by the Republicans were Oliver H. P. Cornell of Tompkins, and B. I. Ives of Cayuga, candidates for State Engineer and State Prison Inspector respectively. Generally speaking, the elections were highly favorable to the Republicans, and that in spite of an anti-Republican drift that manifested itself in New York and throughout the nation. So strong was this movement that it seemed likely that Governor Tilden, the Democratic nominee for president in 1876, would be the victor over the Republican candidate, Rutherford B. Hayes. Peter Cooper and G. C. Smith, nominees of the Greenback and Prohibition parties were conceded no chance at all. For governor of New York, Edwin D. Morgan and Lucius Robinson were the standard bearers of the two major parties; R. M. Griffen and W. J. Groo being the candidates of the Greenback and Prohibition Parties respectively.

Tilden, as is well known, lost the election through the decision of the Electoral Commission, though he carried New York by a substantial majority. Central New York, however, remained safely within the Republican ranks, the vote being 60,371 for Hayes and 46,383 for Tilden. Not a single county within the Inland Empire went Democratic though the margin was quite low in Oneida and Tompkins. For governor, this area also went solidly for Morgan; Robinson, however, carried the State, thanks to Democratic majorities elsewhere. Morgan carried all the important towns and cities

in Central New York except for Rome and Utica. Griffen, the Greenback, and Groo, the Prohibitionist, won but 146 and 887 votes in Central New York. In the Congressional elections the successful candidates were Solomon Bundy of Oxford, William G. Bacon of Utica, William H. Baker of Constantia and Frank Hiscock of Syracuse.

During 1877 the Democrats made some inroads upon the Republicans, gaining the office of State Treasurer for James Mackin over William F. Bostwick of Ithaca. Horatio Seymour, Jr., of Utica, also defeated Howard Soule of Onondaga County, Republican, for the position of State Engineer. The following year local interest centered about the contest for the Legislature, Congress and a judgeship on the Court of Appeals. For this latter office the Prohibitionists named Mr. Van Cott, while the Greenbacks, meeting at Syracuse in July, 1878, nominated G. J. Tucker. Also gathering at Syracuse in September were the Democrats who sponsored George B. Bradley for this office; the Republicans at Saratoga backed George F. Danforth of Rochester, who was ultimately elected. The political complexion of the Legislature after the election stood as follows: in the Senate, 19 Republicans, 12 Democrats and one Greenback; in the Assembly, 98 Republicans, 28 Democrats and two Greenbacks. Cyrus D. Prescott of Rome, Joseph Mason of Hamilton and Frank Hiscock of Syracuse were elected to Congress from the Oneida, Madison and Cortland-Onondaga districts. Tompkins was represented by Jeremiah Dwight, Cayuga by J. H. Camp, and Chenango by David Wilbur, none of whom were residents of the Inland Empire. All of these gentlemen were Republicans. Greenback and Prohibition candidates ran in several of the Congressional districts, the most notable successes being won in Chenango.

The Republican gains of 1878 were duplicated in the elections to the Legislature during 1879 and that in spite of the serious discord that had arisen in the party over President Hayes' advocacy of civil service reform. Roscoe Conkling, Republican and senior United States Senator from New York, viewed this reform as impractical and an unwarranted invasion of party patronage. These differences were brought into the open when a presidential commission found the administration of the New York Custom House inefficient and recommended not only a reorganization, but a dis-



missal of certain officials. Among the latter were Chester A. Arthur and Alonzo B. Cornell, friends and political aides of Conkling who encouraged the former not to resign. Hayes promptly met the situation by removing these gentlemen and by securing the Senate's approval of Merritt and Burt for the positions vacated by Conkling's understudies. Although Conkling's influence was seriously endangered by the turn of events, his power in New York was quite supreme, as was shown at the Saratoga Convention in September, 1879. Among the candidates for the governorship within the Republican Party were Frank Hiscock of Syracuse, Theodore M. Pomeroy of Cayuga, William H. Robertson of Westchester and J. H. Starin of New York. None of these were to the liking of Conkling, however, who succeeded in securing the nomination of his trusted friend, Cornell.

A few days later the Democrats met at Syracuse, whose Civil War hero, General Henry W. Slocum, was an aspirant for the gubernatorial candidacy. After much debate, however, the convention renominated Governor Robinson, much to the disgust of the Tammany delegation which bolted the meeting and named John Kelly of New York City for that office. In the meantime, the Greenbacks, gathering at Utica, endorsed Harris Lewis of Herkimer, while the Prohibitionists at Syracuse named John W. Mears of Oneida. Thus there were five candidates for the governorship. As the campaign progressed it became evident that a vote for Kelly was a vote for Cornell and when the election was over, Cornell was the victor. Had Robinson been assured of Tammany's vote he would have been elected. Kelly received 77,566 votes, Robinson, 375,790, and Cornell, 418,567. In Central New York, Cornell won without Kelly, the vote being 49,577 for Cornell, 35,795 for Robinson and 3578 for Kelly. Cornell carried all of the seven counties though he lost Rome and Utica. Lewis, the Greenback candidate, gained 3930 votes in Central New York of which some two thousand came from Cayuga and Chenango. Mears, the Prohibitionist, garnered 1183 votes, of which 449 came from his own county, Oneida.

The following year, 1880, political strife centered about the presidential and congressional contests, during the course of which Conkling suffered additional losses. Although Hayes was not a candidate for re-election, the reforming group in the Republican



Party marshalled their forces and gained the nomination of James A. Garfield, much to the disgust of Conkling, who had moved heaven and earth to secure that candidacy for General Ulysses S. Grant. In the meantime, the Democrats named General W. S. Hancock, the Greenbacks, James B. Weaver, of Iowa, and the Prohibitionists, Neal Dow of Maine. In the election that followed, Garfield was the choice of the nation, including New York. He won every county in Central New York and led his opponent by over fourteen thousand votes, doing very well in Cayuga and Onondaga. Rome and Utica remained loyal and voted for Hancock who only lost Ithaca by 49 votes. Weaver, the Greenback candidate, received 2193 votes in Central New York, which was about eighteen per cent. of the total cast for him throughout the entire State. Relatively, he did best in Cayuga and Chenango, though Dow, the Prohibitionist, ran fairly well in Oneida, where he received 120 of the 379 votes cast for him within the seven counties. Among the Congressmen elected from Central New York were Cyrus D. Prescott, Joseph Mason and Frank Hiscock.

During 1881, the Republicans captured the seat in the United States Senate, which had been held since 1875 by Francis Kernan, Democrat of Utica. Thomas C. Platt of Owego was the new Senator, who lost no time in joining hands with Conkling in the latter's contest with President Garfield. Garfield's nomination of William H. Robertson for collector of customs at New York City aroused the New York Senators who sought in vain to have the nomination withdrawn. Whereupon they suddenly resigned, believing that such an action would embarrass the President and being confident that Governor Cornell at Albany would see to their prompt re-election. To their consternation, the Legislature refused to coöperate. Conkling's long political career was thus brought suddenly to an end. Shortly thereafter he resumed his legal practice and died at New York City in the spring of 1888. To return, however, to the events of 1881, the Anti-Monopoly League met at Utica in August, but after much debate decided to run no candidates in the fall elections. The Greenbacks, meeting at Elmira, presented a slate including Epenetus Howe, candidate for Secretary of State. In October, the two major parties nominated their aspirants for office, among whom was F. M. Finch of Ithaca, Republican candidate for the Court of Appeals. Finch was elected

to office though Howe received 16,018 votes out of a total of 842,763. In the Legislature, the Democrats gained a majority for the first time in twelve years, there being seventeen Democrats in the Senate to fifteen Republicans, while in the Assembly it stood sixty-seven to sixty-one in favor of the Democrats.

The following year political attention was focused upon the contests for governor and congress. Meeting at Albany in July, the Greenbacks named as their leader Epenetus Howe, though the Labor and the Anti-Monopoly groups presented no nominations. Charles J. Folger was the Republican candidate. The Democratic nominee was Grover Cleveland of Buffalo. Last among the candidates was Alphonse A. Hopkins of the Prohibition Party. Poor management on the part of the Republicans plus Cleveland's popular appeal, gained the victory for the Democrats. Cleveland carried the State including all the counties of Central New York, except Onondaga, which went for Folger by 66 votes; Cleveland defeated his opponent by over eight thousand votes. Auburn, Rome, Utica, Syracuse, Ithaca and the towns of Norwich and Lenox went for Cleveland, though Cortlandville was lost by the slim margin of but nine votes. It was a tremendous victory for the Democratic Party which also increased its majorities in the State Legislature. Among the minor candidates, Hopkins polled 4058 votes in Central New York, and Howe gained 1796. Sereno E. Payne of Auburn, Republican, was elected to Congress from the Cayuga district, George W. Ray, Republican, was chosen to represent the Chenango district, Frank Hiscock of Syracuse, also a Republican, was elected in the Onondaga-Cortland unit, though John T. Spriggs of Utica, a Democrat, captured the Oneida district. The elections, however, in every case were exceedingly close, no one candidate having a majority of two thousand votes.

The year 1883 witnessed a return of New York to the Republican ranks, both the Senate and the Assembly being captured by that party in the fall elections. Once this was over both parties began making plans for the presidential and congressional contests of 1884. The Republican candidate that year was James G. Blaine. Hoping to offset his influence in New York, which was a crucial state, the Democrats nominated Governor Grover Cleveland. Cleveland's chances were materially increased by the so-called Mugwump defection within the Republican ranks and by the chance



remark of a New York City minister that the Democratic Party was the supporter of "rum, Romanism and rebellion." Blaine lost New York and hence, according to some historians, the election. The reference to Romanism, it appears, cost Blaine votes in the Irish precincts of New York City. But what of the situation in Central New York which, with but few local exceptions, had been Republican since the Civil War? Now Blaine carried all of the counties of Central New York except Oneida which went for Cleveland by 33 votes; Blaine's total throughout the area being 60,419 as compared with Garfield's 61,653 in 1880. On the other hand, Cleveland's vote was 49,976 in contrast to Hancock's 47,255. On the basis of these figures as well as those for 1888 it seems difficult to conclude that Blaine's strength in Central New York was influenced by the slip about Romanism. Only in the urban centers of Rome, Utica and Syracuse, where a goodly number of Irish lived, may there have been any effect. Actually, Cleveland carried both Rome and Utica as well as the town of Ithaca and lost Syracuse by some seventeen hundred votes. Among the minor candidates, John P. St. John, gained 3673 votes on the Prohibition ticket and General B. F. Butler, the Greenback candidate, received 1714. Butler did best in Cayuga and Tompkins; St. John, in Oneida and Onondaga.

In the Congressional elections of 1884 the Republicans won in the Cayuga, Madison-Chenango, and Onondaga-Cortland districts, the successful candidates being Sereno E. Payne, Stephen C. Millard and Frank Hiscock. In the Oneida district, John T. Spriggs, a Democrat, was elected, and John Arnot, also a Democrat, won the Tompkins seat. Prohibitionist and Greenback candidates picked up a few thousand votes. In the Legislature, the Republicans retained the upper hand, there being a majority of Republicans in both houses.

During 1885 both the Republican and Democratic conventions were held at Saratoga. Ira Davenport was nominated for governor by the Republicans, David B. Hill, by the Democrats. Among the candidates for other offices were Edward B. Thomas of Chenango, Republican nominee for attorney-general, and Lawrence J. Fitzgerald of Cortland, Democratic nominee for treasurer. The Prohibitionists, meeting at Syracuse, named H. C. Bascom of Troy for governor, and the Greenbacks nominated George O. Jones of



New York City. Although Hill carried the State by some eleven thousand votes, he trailed in Central New York by thirteen thousand. Every county went for Davenport though he lost the cities of Auburn and Rome as well as the towns of Norwich and Ithaca. As was expected, Syracuse went Republican but the seventeen majority vote in Utica for Davenport was quite a surprise. In this election, the Prohibitionists gained 5133 votes in Central New York of which 1351 and 804 came from Oneida and Onondaga respectively. Jones, the Greenback candidate, received but 372 votes of which 233 came from Chenango and Cayuga. In the contests for the Senate and the Assembly the Republicans were generally successful, increasing their majorities in both houses.

The Congressional elections of 1886 resulted in a clean sweep for the Republicans in all Central New York districts. Among those elected from this area were James S. Sherman of Utica, Milton De Lano of Canastota and Frank Hiscock of Syracuse. In January, 1887, Mr. Hiscock was chosen United States Senator. During August of that year the United Labor Party met at Syracuse. Here it encountered considerable difficulty from a Socialist delegation of New York City, but, after the latter had been expelled, the party proceeded to nominate Henry George for secretary of state. Both the Prohibition and Progressive Labor organizations ran candidates for this office as did the two major parties, the Republicans winning the election. During this year and 1888, President Cleveland began directing the electorate's attention to the tariff controversy and it was on the issue of tariff revision that he ran for re-election against Benjamin Harrison, the Republican exponent of protection. Clinton B. Fisk, of New Jersey, was the candidate of the Prohibitionists, Alson J. Streeter of Illinois for the Union Labor Party, and Robert H. Cowdrey of Illinois for the United Labor Party. The Socialist Labor Organization endorsed Cowdrey. In the meantime, the Republicans nominated Warner Miller for governor of New York, the Democrats, David B. Hill, the Prohibitionists, meeting at Syracuse, Martin Jones, the United Labor endorsed Warner Miller, and the Socialist Labor, Edward Hall.

Harrison carried the country including New York; within the Inland Empire the vote was: Harrison 68,833, Cleveland, 51,010, Fisk, 4211, Streeter, 112, and Cowdrey, 60. Cleveland lost every

county though he did manage to win Rome by two hundred votes and Ithaca by the small margin of twenty-three. Every other urban center, including Utica, was within the Republican column. Fisk secured his greatest support in Oneida and Onondaga, the temperance sentiment generally being strongest in the rural areas. It is interesting to note that the labor and socialist votes came chiefly from Cayuga, Onondaga and Tompkins. Although Harrison won the presidential election in New York, Warner Miller was defeated by the Democratic candidate, David B. Hill, for the governorship. In Central New York, however, Hill was defeated by a vote of 52,619 to 66,885, though he did win Rome and Utica. The United Labor, Union Labor and Socialist Labor candidates received a combined vote of less than 160. In the Congressional elections those chosen from Central New York included the Republicans, James S. Sherman, James J. Belden, Milton De Lano and Sereno E. Payne.

1889 was a rather quiet year though the Republicans continued to retain their majorities in the State Legislature. Nor was 1890 much different, the only office contested being a seat on the Court of Appeals, the successful candidate being Judge Robert Earl of Herkimer, who was endorsed by both major parties. The Republicans also captured every Congressional seat within Central New York. Sereno E. Payne was re-elected by almost twenty-eight hundred votes in the Cayuga-Cortland district, James J. Belden captured the Onondaga-Madison seat though his Democratic opponent ran way ahead of him in Madison itself, and George W. Ray was re-elected in the Chenango-Tompkins district. Henry W. Bentley of Boonville, won the Oneida seat by 120 votes. During 1891, the Republicans nominated J. S. Fassett for governor, the Democrats, R. P. Flower, the Prohibitionists, John W. Bruce, and the Socialists, Daniel De Leon. Although Flower carried the State he did not capture a single county in Central New York. On the other hand, he ran much better in this area than did the Democratic candidates of 1888 or 1884. Flower carried Rome and Utica and almost succeeded in gaining Syracuse, where he was defeated by 235 votes. Bruce received 4298 votes, most of these coming from Oneida and Onondaga, and De Leon polled 1129 votes, of which 447 came from Onondaga. In the elections to the State Legislature, the Democrats lost two seats in the Assembly, though they still



retained a slight majority. In the Senate, the returns were contested in several districts, one of these being in Syracuse. Ultimately the dispute was settled by court action, and the Republican majority of six in 1890 was erased by a Democratic majority of two in 1891.

1892 was a presidential year, the candidates being Benjamin Harrison for the Republicans, Grover Cleveland for the Democrats, James B. Weaver for the People's Party, John Bidwell of California for the Prohibitionists, and Simon Wing of Massachusetts for the Socialist Labor. Cleveland carried the country including New York, though in Central New York, he did not win a single county. Harrison received 62,470 votes to Cleveland's 49,089, which was less than what both had received in 1888, and what Blaine and Cleveland gained in 1884. In that latter year, Cleveland carried Rome, Utica and Ithaca; four years later he carried only Rome and Ithaca, and 1892 he won Cortlandville, Rome and Utica. Bidwell received 5087 votes, the largest number won by any Prohibition candidate in the nineteenth century. Weaver and Wing together gained close to twenty-nine hundred votes, most of these coming from Cayuga, Oneida and Onondaga. In the Congressional contests the Republicans were victorious, Payne, Ray and Belden being re-elected by increased majorities, James S. Sherman of Utica nosed out Henry W. Bentley, Democrat, 20,445 to 19,299. Prohibition candidates ran a poor third in all districts. In the elections to the Assembly, the Democrats increased their majority from six to twenty; there was no change in the Senate. The following year, the Republicans gained a majority of five in the Senate, though the Democrats retained control of the Assembly. In 1894 the Republicans not only retained their majority in the Senate, but gained 105 seats in the Assembly, leaving the Democrats with but 23.

During 1894, the Republicans meeting at Saratoga named Levi Morton for governor to oppose David B. Hill, the Democratic candidate. The Prohibitionists supported Francis E. Baldwin, the Socialist Labor, Charles H. Matchett, the People's, Charles B. Matthews and the State Democratic Party, a Mr. Wheeler. The election turned out to be a landslide, Morton defeating Hill by over one hundred and fifty thousand votes. Central New York helped to swell this majority, not a single city and no important town being captured by Hill. Wheeler ran third in the State though



within our seven counties he polled but 1147 which, however, was greater than what either Matchett or Matthews gained. The Prohibitionists retained their position of being the largest minority party in Central New York, rolling up 3521 votes, most of which came from Onondaga, Oneida and Chenango. In the elections to the State Legislature the Republicans gained an impressive victory, there being 105 Republicans to 23 Democrats in the Assembly. The Republicans likewise captured every Congressional seat in Central New York the successful candidates being G. W. Ray, J. S. Sherman, Thomas L. Poole and Sereno E. Payne, the last two being from Syracuse and Auburn respectively. Prohibition and People's candidates ran in nearly all of the districts though their total votes combined were less than six thousand.

The year 1895 was a quiet one, with the Republicans retaining their majority in the State Senatorial elections. In the meantime clever politicians were scheming throughout the country about the presidential campaign of 1896. Thanks to the successful leadership of Marcus A. Hanna, William McKinley became the Republican candidate for that huge office on a platform that reaffirmed the existing gold standard of currency. The adoption of this gold plank brought about a break in the party on the part of some of the Western members who, however, did not run a separate ticket pledged to the coinage of silver. Some of the silver Republicans undoubtedly supported William J. Bryan, Democrat, on a platform that demanded the "free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1." But this was not to the liking of the Gold Democrats who, having the support of President Cleveland, held a convention of their own and nominated John M. Palmer of Illinois. Charles H. Matchett of New York was the Socialist Labor candidate, the Prohibitionists supporting Joshua Levering of Maryland. So keen was the interest in the silver question that the Prohibitionists were forced to take sides, with the result that the party split and nominated gold and silver tickets in various parts of the country.

In the meantime party lines in New York were sadly disrupted as a result of the silver question. Fortunately for the Republicans the number of their silver advocates were few and Frank S. Black was nominated for governor without much opposition. Among the Democrats, however, a split took place, the Silver Democrats naming Wilbur F. Porter, the Sound Money Democrats (National Demo-

crats) nominating Daniel G. Griffen. The Prohibitionists, meeting at Syracuse, named William W. Smith, and the Socialist Labor nominated Mr. Balkam. None of the minor candidates was given a ghost of a show, and the electorate was whipped into a state of high frenzy by the brilliant spectacle of torch light parades and a flow of oratory that rose to great heights. As is well known, McKinley carried the country including New York where his vote exceeded that of Bryan by over 268,000. In Central New York the Republicans snowed under their opponents, every county going for McKinley including every city and important town. In Onondaga the Republican majority was over eleven thousand and in Oneida, where the Democrats hoped to make a better showing, McKinley won by over seven thousand votes. Among the minor candidates, Levering polled 2239 votes within the seven counties, nine hundred of these coming from Onondaga and Oneida. Matchett, on the Socialist Labor ticket, polled but 860 votes, 713 of these being cast in Onondaga and of these 656 came from Syracuse. Palmer, the Sound Money Democrat garnered but 1215 votes in Central New York.

In the race for governor, Black defeated his Democratic opponent and was elected. Central New York went solidly for him, every county, city and important town being carried though he did have a narrow victory in Rome where the vote was 1683 for Black and 1486 for Porter. Smith, the Prohibition candidate, ran third within this area, gaining 2487 votes of which 1037 came from Onondaga and Oneida. Griffen polled 1744 votes in Central New York, most of his strength being in Onondaga and Oneida. Balkam, the Socialist candidate, garnered but 931 votes, 706 of which came from Onondaga, mostly from Syracuse. In the Congressional elections Payne, Ray and Sherman—Republicans—were re-elected from the Cayuga-Cortland, Chenango-Tompkins and Oneida districts by majorities that ranged from twelve to fourteen thousand. In the Onondaga-Madison district a close battle was waged between Thomas L. Poole, Republican, and J. J. Belden, an Independent Republican, who ran with the backing of the Democrats. Belden gained 27,427 votes to Poole's 22,057, and thus was elected.

The following year, 1897, the only contest of importance was that of a judgeship on the Court of Appeals. Alton B. Parker,



Democrat, was elected over his Republican opponent, F. E. Baldwin. Greater interest, however, was shown in the gubernatorial contest of 1898. Meeting at Saratoga, the Republicans nominated Theodore Roosevelt, and the Democrats, gathering at Syracuse, named Augustus Van Wyck. Kline, Hanford and Bascom ran on the Prohibition, Socialist Labor and Citizens tickets respectively. The election was fiercely contested, Roosevelt defeating Van Wyck 666,094 to 642,015. Central New York gave Roosevelt 65,017 votes to his opponent's 45,236. Roosevelt not only carried every county but captured all the important towns and cities except Rome and Utica which went Democratic by a few hundred votes. Kline got 2646, half of which came from the rural areas of Onondaga and Oneida, Hanford received 3077 of which 1972 came from Syracuse, and Bascom gained but 178 in all of the seven counties. The Congressional elections resulted in a clear sweep for the Republicans, the successful candidates being Sereno E. Payne, G. W. Ray, J. S. Sherman and Michael E. Driscoll, the latter being from Syracuse.

Two years later McKinley and Bryan fought it out again for the presidency, the minor candidates being Eugene V. Debs, Socialist Democrat, Malloney for the Socialist Labor and Woolley for the Prohibitionists. For governor the Republicans named Benjamin B. Odell, the Democrats, John B. Stanchfield, the Socialist Labor, Corregan, the Social Democrats, Hanford, and the Prohibitionists, Wardell. McKinley carried the State including Central New York where the vote was 77,689 to 48,210, carrying every county. Debs gained 606 votes within Central New York of which 295 came from Syracuse which also gave Malloney 925 votes out of 1763 garnered from the seven counties. Woolley netted more votes than either of these candidates, 2925 in all, of which 1143 came from Onondaga and Oneida. For governor Odell was elected, Stanchfield losing Central New York by over twenty-one thousand votes. Odell carried all of the cities and the important towns. Wardell, the Prohibition candidate, polled close to three thousand votes in Central New York, of which the larger share came from the rural areas of Oneida and Onondaga. Corregan and Hanford lagged far behind, both securing the largest support in Syracuse, Utica and Auburn. In the Congressional elections Sherman, Driscoll, Ray and Payne—Republicans—were returned without much opposition.





CHAPTER XV  
HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS





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## CHAPTER XV

### *Humanitarian Efforts*

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CLEANLINESS, it has been often said, is next to godliness, but in neither of these attributes did the early settlers excel. Frontier conditions, as has been noted, were not conducive to high standards of morality or health. However, as the Indian problem was solved, as forests gave way to farms and small settlements, and as improved methods of transportation and communication developed, the itinerant pastor and early doctor were followed by resident pastors and physicians. Upon the shoulders of the latter fell the task of caring for the sick and dying. More important were their efforts in promoting attitudes and habits among the people that would lead to better health standards and practices. Greater and more rapid strides would most certainly have been made but for the ignorance of many persons who, trusting in household remedies, were wont to stay away from the doctor except in cases of dire necessity. Nor can they be censured altogether when one recalls the terrible pain one suffered in an age when the surgeon's knife was not dulled by chloroform. Moreover, it is hard to blame them when the papers and drug stores advertised miraculous compounds calculated to cure any manner of sickness. Then there were the usual number of quacks who lured many to part with their money for services that were utterly worthless. By the middle of the century, the market was flooded with magnetic belts, electric salts, sugar coated pills and a thousand and one other patent medicines and devices. Against these frauds and their unscrupulous advocates the medical profession struggled with all its might and, while it is true that considerable progress was made, quacks continued to ply their profitable trade throughout the remainder of the century.

Early in the nineteenth century the reputable and dependable physicians of the Inland Empire began forming medical societies. The motives prompting these organizations were largely professional, though it is interesting to note that one of their first steps was to attack the would be doctor and his worthless pills. No one



ENTRANCE TO AUBURN PRISON, AUBURN

was admitted to membership within these societies unless he had passed an examination establishing his knowledge and skill; hence non-membership tended to brand one as an inferior doctor or a fraud. Moreover, these associations frequently prosecuted those who were the worst offenders. Again, they constantly put pressure upon the village and city fathers to limit the activities of these quacks. In addition, they agitated for clean streets, drained swamps and the construction of something more than pest houses for the critically ill. They were most active in promoting a pure and sanitary water supply for the various communities, nor were their efforts in vain. At the same time these societies sought to improve the



quality and skill of their members by gatherings at which papers were read and discussions took place relative to some recent medical discovery. Again, in some instances, they carefully studied the physical and geographic features of their communities, hoping thereby to determine the cause of common and wide-spread sickness. Finally, they were alert and eager to sponsor any local or State move that might tend to raise the general health standards of the people. Great and everlasting credit is due to these societies for their tireless and unselfish efforts throughout the nineteenth century.

In the middle of that century, the medical profession was rocked to its foundations by the rapid advance of homeopathy. Formulated by Drs. Hahnemann and Priessnitz, this school of medicine sought to eradicate sickness by prescribing small doses of medicines that would produce in a person the very symptoms of the disease that was being treated. The principle back of this technique was the notion that "like cures like." Conservative opinion frowned upon this principle, declared it was worse than nothing, and insisted that the patients were being fleeced and rushed to an early death by ideas and practices that had no scientific foundation or validity. In spite of these condemnations, many reputable doctors embraced the new school of thought, whereupon they were expelled from the county and city medical societies. Expulsion, however, did not stem the advance of homeopathy and many of the most outstanding practitioners throughout Central New York continued to administer it with considerable success. Although not rated as quacks, the old line doctors poured much ridicule and censure upon their rivals throughout the century.

One of the first to practice homeopathy in Central New York was Dr. H. H. Cator who came to Syracuse in 1846. In his wake followed Dr. Charles Baker, of Fayetteville, and Dr. B. B. Schenck of Plainville. By 1860 the number of doctors following this school of thought was numerous enough to warrant the organization of the Onondaga County Homeopathic Medical Society. Any one familiar with the medical personnel of the county will admit that this society included some of the finest doctors of the age. Witness, for example, the names of Lyman Clary, William A. Hawley, William H. Hoyt, A. J. Brewster, J. W. Sheldon and B. W. Sherwood, all of whom served as presidents of the society. Nor will sober thought



belittle the splendid work done by the Syracuse Homeopathic Free Dispensary, founded in 1892, or the Syracuse Homeopathic Hospital established a few years later. In Madison, a county homeopathic society was founded at Morrisville in January, 1865, its first president being D. D. Loomis. Others prominent in this organization included H. D. Adams, Ira C. Owen, E. C. Bass, G. L. Gifford, A. E. Wallace and W. H. Griffith. In Chenango, a similar society was started in 1871 with J. T. Wallace as its first president. Others prominent in this group throughout the century were R. E. Miller, C. C. Miller, C. Bruchhauser and Charles A. Church. Homeopathy was introduced into Cayuga in 1841 by Dr. Horatio Robinson. Others followed, notably Dr. McCarthy of Throopsville, Dr. Cantor of Moravia and Drs. Hiram Bennett and E. C. Witheral of Auburn. In May, 1862, a county homeopathic society was founded. Dr. Erastus Humphrey brought this school of medicine to Oneida County in 1843. Dr. Erastus A. Munger of Waterville became first president of the county society which was formed in 1857; he was also president of the New York State Homeopathic Society in 1844. Others prominent in the county society were Drs. Leverett Bishop, Samuel W. Stewart, L. B. Wells, Thomas F. Pomeroy, J. C. Raymond, all of Utica, H. M. Paine of Clinton, G. J. Jones of Holland Patent, Hiram Hadley of Boonville, S. O. Scudder of Rome and D. D. Loomis of Bridgewater. In 1849 the Central New York Homeopathic Society was founded; later this organization moved to Syracuse.

In the meantime the various county medical societies, as distinct from the homeopathic groups, continued to function. Without question the efforts of these various organizations did much to advance the medical profession and the general health of the people. Prominent among the officers of these societies were John H. Frisbie, Walter Colton, H. L. Granger, A. B. Shipman, H. D. Didama and Frederick W. Slocum, all of Onondaga. In Madison there were Israel Farrell, A. L. Saunders, H. W. Carpenter, D. D. Chase and A. D. Head. In Chenango, reference should be made to Colby Knapp, William Bacon, H. Harris, Daniel Clark, G. O. Williams, D. M. Lee, J. V. Lewis and J. W. Thorpe. The Tompkins County Medical Society was formed in 1818 and included men like A. J. Miller, C. C. Comstock, D. L. Mead, Jason Atwater and Dyer Foote. The organization appears to have functioned until

1844; later it was revived in 1862 under the presidency of Edward H. Eldrige. Subsequent presidents have included Lyman Corydon, John M. Farrington, S. P. Sackett, A. J. Whites, E. C. Coe and William Fitch.

The Cortland County Medical Society was organized at Homer in 1818, Lewis S. Owen being its first president. Others who served



CITY HOSPITAL, ONEIDA

in this capacity were John Miller, Lewis Riggs, A. Blanchard, Miles Goodyear, A. B. Smith, Frederick Hyde, H. O. Jewett and Charles E. Bennett. In Cayuga a society was founded in 1806, its first officers being Frederick Delano, James McClung, Jacob Bogart and Consider King. These gentlemen and others appear to have been quite determined to establish a medical academy at Auburn and, between 1820 and 1830, they repeatedly petitioned Albany to charter such an institution. Pending the outcome of their efforts, Drs. Erastus Tuttle and John Morgan actually offered informal instruction, while Dr. S. Gilmore did much in the way of publishing



pertinent facts relative to the activities of the medical profession in Cayuga. The founding of the school at Geneva blasted the hope for a medical college at Auburn. Prominent doctors in the Oneida County Medical Society were Seth S. Peck, Laurens Hall, Daniel Thomas, P. M. Hastings, F. M. Barrows, M. M. Bagg, J. H. Glass and J. G. Kilbourne. In 1858 a City Medical Association was founded at Syracuse, which in 1894 was reorganized as the Syracuse Academy of Medicine. Among its honored presidents were D. M. Totman, J. Jacobson, Florine O. Donohue, George M. Price, N. P. Warner and Alfred Mercer. Many of these, and others too numerous to mention, were active in the drive that took place in Syracuse during 1872 to bring the Geneva Medical College to Syracuse. And when this institution became a part of Syracuse University, one of its first officers was Henry D. Didama.

The development of hospitals in Syracuse is a most interesting subject of investigation. Prior to 1848 there was no institution to care for the sick except a few homes maintained by some of the doctors for their own patients. An outbreak of cholera, however, forced the city to found a Pest House and in 1852 a so-called Poor and Work House and Hospital. Both of these houses were owned and operated by the city for the poor and indigent; they cannot, therefore, be classed as real hospitals. About the same time, the County Medical Society took steps, according to one, and only one, source, to establish a city hospital. If the latter was founded it most certainly had disappeared by the 1860s, otherwise Mary A. Maltbie, Emily M. Davis and others would hardly have petitioned the Board of Supervisors in 1865 for the erection of a city hospital. The Board paid scant attention to this request, whereupon the local element favoring a hospital decided to act independently. A committee headed by Rev. Samuel J. May raised funds sufficient to construct a hospital on the corner of Chestnut and Madison streets. But the effort met grave financial difficulties and in 1867 the hospital closed its doors. Shortly thereafter May was approached by several Sisters of Charity, who recently had come to Syracuse, to aid in the founding of a new hospital. As a result of May's efforts, the Sisters saw their dream realized and, in the spring of 1869, St. Joseph's Hospital, on Prospect Hill, was opened. An annex was added in 1896 and a new surgical pavilion the next year.



In the meantime, the Right Reverend F. D. Huntington, Bishop of the Episcopal Church, had enlisted support to warrant the foundation of the House of the Good Shepherd in 1874, later known as the Hospital of the Good Shepherd. This institution was located on Marshall street, the property being donated by George F. Comstock. Eleven years later, as the hospital expanded, a Syracuse Training School for Nurses was instituted by Mrs. Q. B. Mills, then superintendent of the hospital. Two years later the Syracuse Hospital for Women and Children was founded; later in the century it moved to West Genesee Street. Then there was the City Hospital, established by the city of Syracuse in 1875; it was little more than a pest house though, in 1892, a new and much enlarged plant was erected. Last among the hospitals of Syracuse, founded during the nineteenth century, was the Homeopathic established in 1895, its first officers being Austin C. Chase, Edward A. Powell, D. H. Gowing and Anthony Lamb.

Closely related to these institutions were a number of other humanitarian establishments. One of these was the Bureau of Labor and Charities founded in 1878 to care for indigent persons and unfortunate children. Edward A. Powell, Elias Talbot, Austin C. Chase and others sponsored this movement. Later, in 1881, Harriet T. Dunlop, Timothy Sullivan and others founded the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and in 1853 the Syracuse Home Association to care for aged and destitute women was started. Interest was also shown in orphans as early as 1841, out of which came the County Orphan Society located on Salt Springs Road and which Samuel J. May had much to do with. Then there were the St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum, organized in 1868, the St. Mary's Orphan Asylum, and the St. Vincent de Paul Asylum on Madison street, incorporated in 1860. Finally, in 1855, the New York State Asylum for Idiots, established at Albany in 1851, was moved to Syracuse where it has remained ever since.

The State's concern over the insane was also shown by the founding of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica in 1836 though its doors were not opened until 1843. During the next fifteen years this institution received from the county poorhouses those patients who it was thought might be cured by moral and humane treatment. Partly burned out in 1857, the building was restored, thanks

to the generosity of citizens of Utica and the State. When the Asylum for Insane Convicts was opened at Auburn in 1859, the Utica plant was relieved of caring for these unfortunates, and when in 1865 the State authorized the construction of the Willard



FORT STANWIX ELM, ROME CLUB, ROME

*(Courtesy of Rome Chamber of Commerce)*

Asylum for the Insane, all pauper cases at Utica thought to be incurable were assigned to the new institution. The splendid work done by the Utica Asylum may be shown by a report of 1870, which stated that since 1843 out of a total of 9225 patients admitted, 3572 were discharged as recovered; 1407 persons were reported as improved, 2400 as not improved, 105 as not being insane, and 1138 who had died.

Other humanitarian efforts in Utica, during the last century, included the Utica City Alms House, organized at an early date,



the Utica Orphan Asylum, founded in 1830, St. John's Female Orphan Asylum, established by the Sisters of Charity in 1834, and St. Vincent's Male Orphan Asylum, incorporated in 1862 and under the direction of the Christian Brothers. Among the hospitals of Utica one of the oldest is St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Home incorporated in 1866. Founded by the Sisters of St. Francis, this institution rendered most valuable service. Then there was St. Luke's Home and Hospital, established in 1869 under the auspices of Grace Episcopal Church. Dr. M. Van Dusen was one of its chief patrons. Various additions to this institution were made in 1870, 1886 and 1892. The present Faxton Hospital on Sunset began as the Utica Home for the Homeless in 1866. Theodore Faxton contributed most generously to the inception of this institution. The Utica General Hospital was a city institution started in 1854 while the Utica Memorial Hospital on Genesee was opened in 1895.

In Auburn the establishment of the City Hospital goes back to 1875 when, as the result of a gift from James S. Seymour, a prominent banker, steps were taken to enlist the support of other citizens. By 1880 property had been acquired and the hospital opened for patients. A school of nursing was established in 1889. Another prominent institution at Auburn is the State Prison founded in 1816 though it was not until the following year that the first prisoners were received. As then completed the prison provided space for the inmates, the warden and his family. Among the early wardens were William Brittin, John Cray, Elam Lynds and Gershom Powers. At first congregate confinement was tried, but this proved a failure as did also solitary confinement. Later, prisoners were allowed to work in groups but were assigned to separate cells at night. Severe punishment and strict regulations made the lot of the inmates none too desirable. One of the chief reasons for the popularity of the prison at Auburn was "its superior adaptability to economic operations." Work in congregate machine shops proved quite profitable. The contract system became a prominent feature after 1821; the more important products made were shoes, boots, barrels and wearing apparel. From modern standards the prison during the past century was most certainly "barbarous." At the same time, the motive behind confinement was reformation rather than punishment, which in itself was a marked improvement over earlier prisons elsewhere.



In the meantime, in the various counties and under a State law passed in 1824, increased attention was paid to the pauper population. Entitled "An act to provide for the establishment of county poorhouses," this measure provided that the local board of supervisors in some sixteen counties throughout the State should purchase property and erect a poorhouse. All persons, properly certified and not being ill or infirm, might apply for admission. Children found begging in the streets might also be sent to these houses. Later legislation extended these and other features to all of the counties; thus the poorhouse system was present throughout Central New York throughout most of the last century. During this period consideration was also given to destitute children, a notable example being the privately operated Cayuga Asylum at Auburn.

CHAPTER XVI  
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES





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## CHAPTER XVI

### *Educational Activities*

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EDUCATION in New York has always been considered a State function. Hardly had America won its independence than the sovereign State of New York proceeded to create a Board of Regents in whose hands the conduct and administration of schools was lodged. However, up to 1812, this Board gave scant attention to public schools; rather did it busy itself with institutions of higher learning. Protest against this unfair practice ultimately led to the passage of an act in 1812 whereby the towns of the State were grouped into school districts, each of which had an elected board of trustees who managed local school affairs but subject to the authority of a Superintendent of Common Schools. Later, in 1821, this office was abolished, its duties being assigned to the already over-burdened Secretary of State. Bitter criticism followed this innovation and it was not until 1854 that a law was passed creating a Department of Public Instruction, an arrangement that continued to exist until 1904. Throughout the nineteenth century, therefore, there were two systems of educational control, one being the Board of Regents, the other the Department of Public Instruction. Although these agencies had rather well-defined spheres of activity, their powers frequently overlapped—a situation that often produced discord not favorable to the cause of education.

The expense of maintaining the public school system was supposed to be met from the income arising out of the Common School Funds of New York. Each district, however, had the authority of raising as much more money as it deemed necessary providing it did not exceed twice the amount received from the

State. At no time, however, had the combined income from the State and local units been sufficient to meet the cost of instruction. The deficits incurred were balanced by an assessment upon the parents, many of whom were unable to pay this tax, or as it was commonly called the "rate-bill." Determined to keep their children in school, families of low income became "indigent." Only by the imposition of a State tax could these "rate-bills" be abolished and until that was done New York could not boast of a free public school system.

Opposition to this arrangement grew as the years passed and in 1846 a convention of educators meeting at Albany plead for the establishment of a free school system to be supported by a property tax. In spite of what seemed to be a state-wide demand for free schools, the State Constitutional Convention refused to incorporate this principle in the new organic law. Though bitterly disappointed, Samuel J. May of Syracuse and others continued to battle for free schools. Numerous meetings were held throughout the State at which men like Horace Mann and Wendell Phillips spoke in favor of free schools. And in 1849 the electorate of the State voted almost three to one for the establishment of such schools. In Central New York the vote was 32,571 for, 17,749 against. Every county endorsed the principle except Tompkins, where the vote was 2459 for, 3177 against. In Onondaga, where Samuel J. May's influence was felt, the measure was carried, 7490 to 2002. Hardly had the victory been won than the opponents of the new law began agitating for its repeal and in 1850 they were able to have their way by a small margin. Two years later a compromise measure was passed whereby education was declared free for all between five and twenty-one, the expense being met by a tax on real and personal property. In spite of this assessment deficits continued and "rate-bills" were still levied. Not until 1867 was the tax raised so as to render "rate-bills" unnecessary. New York, at last, had adopted a free public school system.

With the preliminary survey in mind—and a knowledge of it is necessary for an understanding of educational activity—let us look at the public schools of Central New York. According to the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools in 1843, there were 1934 school districts within the Inland Empire, 401 of which were in Oneida, 328 in Onondaga and 292 in Chenango. Cayuga

had 270 districts, Tompkins 222, Madison, 238, and Cortland 183. A total of 109,369 pupils are said to have received instruction, though it is believed on the basis of later returns that this figure is not accurate. Of this number, however, only 34,821 attended school for more than six months in a year, and of the remainder about six thousand went for less than four months. Oneida had the largest enrollment, 22,405, but of these only five thousand remained in school longer than six months. In Onondaga, 5568 pupils out of 20,444 received schooling for more than six months, while in Cortland, 5605 out of 9544 went for six months. In the other counties it ranged from 3800 in Chenango to 5800 in Cayuga. Although these schools were open for about seven and three-quarter months and consisted of so-called winter and summer terms, it is clear that the educational facilities were not so satisfactory as they should have been. The pernicious system of "rate-bills" did much to retard expansion and the public school funds were quite inadequate. Most of the teachers were none too well trained, but until salaries could be raised above twelve to fourteen dollars for men per month and above five to seven for women, little improvement in this respect could be expected. Income to be sure was supplemented by free board and lodging in the homes of the parents, especially in the rural districts, but there were few voices raised in behalf of this arrangement.

Many of the school buildings, particularly in the country areas, were little more than crude shacks, and even in the villages and cities conditions were not desirable. Adequate equipment was generally lacking, many schools having nothing more than an old worn-out blackboard. The Superintendent of Cayuga County deeply deplored existing conditions, saying that his schools were "uncomfortable, unhealthy and inconvenient." Many of the seats had no backs and in the center of most school buildings was a "space occupied by a stove which in cold weather has to be kept at red heat and around this flaming furnace in an over-heated and highly-vitiated temperature, the teacher has to perform his round of duty." Few, if any, of the schools were graded and the methods of teaching were quite primitive with ample doses of whippings thrown in for good measure. In spite of these defects something worth while was accomplished and the ground was cleared for improvement in the future. During these years the children of well-to-do parents



frequently had their own private tutors or were sent away to selected academies.

Increased appropriations from both State and County tended to produce higher standards and better conditions after 1866, as may be seen from an examination of the reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. For example, let us look at the report of 1870. Although the number of pupils attending school had decreased by almost ten thousand since 1843, the quality of teaching and equipment had risen to a marked degree. Classes were now generally graded and in the cities, such as Utica, Auburn and Syracuse, there were many public-spirited men who willingly devoted much time and effort to educational matters. Here and there signs of the old order still remained but with high schools and academies leading the way, it was evident that conditions were decidedly improved. Teacher training was being stressed, educational meetings were held in large numbers, and the material aspect of instruction had grown by leaps and bounds. Greater strides followed during the course of the next few decades and Central New York had ample reason to be proud of its public schools at the close of the century.

Directing our attention to those academies chartered by the Board of Regents, or authorized by acts of the legislature, one finds that in 1834 there were fourteen such institutions within the Inland Empire. In Oneida there was an academy at Bridgewater, Clinton, Utica and two at Whitesboro. Madison had two such schools, one at Hamilton, the other at Cazenovia. Cortland had one at Homer, Chenango one at Oxford, and Tompkins one at Ithaca. In Onondaga there was a school at Pompey and another at Onondaga Valley, while in Cayuga there was an academy at Aurora and also at Auburn. The total enrollment of these schools in that year was 1109. Between that date and 1859 a large number of other academies were established, the total number existing in 1859 being thirty-three, three of which were in Cayuga, at Auburn, Aurora and Moravia. In Chenango there were institutions at Oxford and Norwich, and at Cortland, Homer and Cincinnatus in Cortland County. Madison had schools at Brookfield, De Ruyter, Hamilton, Cazenovia, Peterboro, Chittenango and Oneida City. Oneida County had academies at Augusta, Clinton, Rome, Sauquoit, Utica, Vernon and Whitesboro. At Jordan, Manlius, Elbridge,

Pompey and Onondaga Valley there were academies and in Tompkins similar schools were to be found at Groton, Ithaca and Trumansburg.

In 1870 the number of academies had declined to thirty, of which four were in Cayuga, located at Auburn, Aurora, Moravia and Union Springs. Chenango still retained its schools at Oxford and Norwich, Cortland had three at Cortlandville, Homer and Marathon, and Tompkins had schools at Groton, Ithaca and Trumansburg. In Madison there were institutions at Brookfield, Cazenovia, De Ruyter, Peterboro, Oneida and Chittenango, while in Oneida there were institutions at Augusta, Clinton, Sauquoit, Whitesboro and Utica. In Onondaga similar schools existed at Pompey, Elbridge and Baldwinsville. In addition to these, a number of others had been founded but had disappeared. Among these were the Auburn Female Academy, the Fayetteville Academy, the Genoa Academy, Hobart Hall at Holland Patent, Hubbardsville Academy, Norwich Union Seminary, the Preble Academy and the institutions at Prospect, Victory, Weedsport, Skaneateles, Steuben and Sherburne. After 1870 the number of academies continued to decline, due largely to the development of high schools, though many of the latter indicated an earlier inception by having the twofold name of "academy and high school." Unfortunately, space does not permit an adequate account of the numerous academies that existed in Central New York during the nineteenth century, though a random sampling will illustrate their general life and activity. For example, there was the Bridgewater Academy, founded in 1826, which continued until 1839. Seldom did it have over fifty pupils and its physical equipment was limited to one large building, a small library and what it called a "good chemical and philosophical apparatus." Somewhat longer in life was the institution at Hamilton in Madison County known as the Hamilton Academy. Founded in 1816, it received a charter in 1820. Under the direction of its first principal, General Nathaniel King, and his successor, Professor Zenas Morse, the school flourished and in 1827 opened a women's department. At one time it had an enrollment of one hundred and thirty pupils, some of whom were of the grammar school age. The foundation of a public grammar school at Hamilton in 1853 and the loss of a building by fire caused this academy to totter and disappear in 1857.



To George W. Gale goes the credit for having started the Oneida Institute of Science and Industry at Whitesboro in 1827, which was chartered an academy in 1829. This was a Presbyterian venture founded on the "manual labor" principle whereby each student was to work three hours a day at some non-academic voca-



CAZENOVIA SEMINARY, CAZENOVIA

tion; in this way it was believed a real Christian education could be obtained. Under the guidance of its principal, Rev. Beriah Green, the school grew until it was wrecked by the abolition movement. Rev. Mr. Green was an ardent anti-slavery advocate and aided by Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, who generously contributed to the academy, soon invited hostile criticism and attack. By 1840 the Institute had declined so that its principal, we are told, had to scrub, wash and iron to keep his own home intact. Four years later the Institute was forced to shut down.

At Onondaga Valley an academy was founded in 1813; its first principal being Rev. Caleb Alexander. By 1834 the school



had around forty students and property valued at \$4500. The removal of the county seat from the Valley to Syracuse caused the fortunes of this academy to decline and, in 1866, it became the Onondaga Valley Academy and Union School. Mention has already been made of the founding of the Pompey Academy in 1811. Under the direction of its early principals, men like Ely Burchard, Rev. Joshua Leonard and Rev. E. S. Barrows, the academy got off to a good start and soon attracted considerable attention. By 1834 it had outgrown its original two-story frame building and a more elaborate stone structure was erected. During the next three and four decades it continued to flourish and many prominent Onondagans were graduated. Some of its later principals were Samuel S. Stebbins, Lorenzo Fish, Orson G. Dibble, C. E. Havens, Horace T. Henderson and Robert C. Avery. Ultimately the academy ceased to function though its life, in one sense, was continued through the local high school which took over the old stone building.

Not far from Pompey is the village of Homer where an academy was founded in 1819. Known as the Cortland Academy this school, under the direction of principals like Oren Catlin, Noble D. Strong, Charles Avery, Franklin Sherrill, Oliver S. Taylor and S. W. Clark, rapidly became one of the outstanding academies of Central New York. Originally limited to pupils seeking a grammar school training or classical knowledge, the doors were opened to women in 1821 and in 1830 a music department was added. Four years later the school had one hundred and forty-six pupils, a small library, and property valued at over \$3000. The Homer Academy, as it was also called, had almost four hundred pupils in 1859 and in 1870 its property was valued at about forty thousand dollars. Sometime before 1890, this institution became an academy and high school. Mention should also be made of the academy founded at Cortlandville in 1842, its first principal being Joseph Reynolds. After many years of useful work it became part of the local public school system.

Another outstanding academy was that established at Cazenovia in 1825. The inception of this institution began in 1824 when Rev. Charles Giles, a prominent Methodist minister of that day, convinced the Genesee Conference of the need of establishing a Methodist school in that area. Supported by a number of citizens of that village, notably Perry G. Childs and John Williams, a

beginning was made and, in 1826, the Board of Regents granted a charter to the Seminary of the Genesee Conference. Four years later, when that Conference ceded territory to form the Oneida Conference, the school was renamed the Seminary of the Oneida and Genesee Conference, and as such it was continued until 1868



SIMS HALL, BOWNE HALL AND LIBRARY, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE

when the Central New York Conference was formed, at which time the school became known as the Central New York Conference Seminary. Later, in 1874, it acquired its present title, The Cazenovia Seminary. Among its honored presidents during the nineteenth century were Nathaniel Porter, W. C. Larrabee, George Peck, Henry Bannister, G. G. Hapgood, A. S. Graves, W. S. Smith, Edward G. Andrews and Isaac H. Clements. Although an organ of the Methodist Church and pursuing a rather strict control over the conduct of its student body, which consisted of both boys and girls, this institution never sought to force its religious views upon the latter, many of whom were members of other communions.



At the close of the century this worthy institution possessed grounds and equipment valued at over eighty thousand dollars. Probably no academy in all of Central New York has exercised such an influence as the Cazenovia Seminary.

In 1851, Gerrit Smith gave the initial impetus to the founding of an academy at Peterboro. William S. Post became the first principal and was followed by Leonard Calkins, Charles Washburn, Jonathan Copeland and several others. For a while all went well but, by 1862, the institution was clearly on the rocks and probably would have gone under but for the timely assistance of Gerrit Smith. Extensive repairs were undertaken and, in 1864, the school was reopened as the Evans Academy in honor of William Evans who contributed \$15,000 to the school. John N. Woodbury became principal in 1869 and, in 1890, this office was held by Earlman Fenner who likewise taught history, mathematics and Latin. Miss Lou Messinger handled the English and German classes, and Miss Gertrude Harrington taught music. Later in the century this school became the Peterboro High School.

Reference has already been made to the founding of the Oxford Academy in Chenango County in 1794, Elisha Mosley being the first teacher. David Prentice became principal in 1820 and was followed by such men as Rev. Edward Andrews, Merritt G. McKoon, John Abbott, D. G. Barber, F. B. Lewis and James A. Brown. In 1890 it had an enrollment of 220 students, 114 of whom were boys. At that time instruction was offered in mathematics, language, geography, algebra, plain geometry, astronomy, physics, chemistry, history and many other subjects. Elementary subjects were also taught to those of grammar school age. Sometime before 1890 this institution became the Oxford Academy and Union School, its principal in 1890 being Robert K. Toaz, a graduate of Rochester University. Another academy in Chenango County was chartered in 1843 as the Norwich Academy. Benjamin F. Taylor was its first principal and was followed by men like Jarvis C. Howard, J. F. K. Truair, David G. Barber, Charles Hopkins and John Dunlop. Prior to 1870, this institution was merged into the Norwich Union School, Academic Department. For a time a similar school existed at New Berlin.

In the year 1813 a group of citizens of Utica petitioned the Board of Regents to incorporate an academy to be located in that



village, a request that was granted in 1814. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer was named president of the board of trustees and Ebenezer B. Shearman, secretary; Rev. Jesse Townshend was chosen principal in 1815 and was followed by Rev. Samuel T. Mills, William Sparrow, David Prentice, M. M. Backus, George Spencer, Ellis H. Roberts and several others. An unpretentious two-story brick building was erected in 1818 and, in 1834, it had an enrollment of 120 pupils with property valued at eleven thousand dollars. In 1853 the powers of the board of trustees were transferred to the commissioners of the Utica Common Schools and from that time on it became a high school with an academic department.

In Cayuga there was founded in 1815 the Auburn Academy, among whose principals were Noble D. Strong, John A. Savage, John C. Rudd, Allen Fisk and William Hopkins. After having run for several years, the school ceased to make reports to the Board of Regents and, in 1853, it was reorganized and transferred to the common school system under the name of the Auburn Academic High School. In 1834 it had eighty-five students and property valued at over \$4000. Somewhat earlier a similar academy was founded at Aurora, being incorporated in 1801. Some of its principals were John Ely, Rev. H. N. Woodruff, Salmon Strong, George B. Glendening and D. L. Parmlee. Organized as the Cayuga Academy its name was changed in 1860 to the Cayuga Lake Academy; later it was called the Cayuga Lake Military Academy, its principal in 1890 being Colonel C. J. Wright. This institution is not listed in the report of the University of the State of New York in 1900.

In the meantime there developed a number of unincorporated and private schools. In 1843 there were 292 such institutions within Central New York caring for 4594 pupils, over eleven hundred of whom were in Utica. In 1870 the number of private schools had decreased somewhat though, by the close of the century, there was a marked increase, especially among the parochial schools. Then there were many preparatory schools and religious academies like the Academy of the Sacred Heart founded at Syracuse in 1889, the Houghton Seminary established at Clinton in 1881, the Utica Catholic Academy started in 1891, the Cascadilla School at Ithaca, founded in 1898, the Oakwood Seminary started at Union Springs in 1860, and the St. Peter's Academy, begun at Rome in 1883.

Central New York also has had its share of colleges and universities. Concerning the early history of Hamilton College, which was chartered in 1793 as the Hamilton Oneida Academy, and which was merged into a college in 1812, comment has been made in the previous volume. As originally founded, this college hoped to offer instruction in classical training and in the field of medicine. Actually, an attempt was made to establish the latter but it failed and so Hamilton developed along approved classical lines. Its first president was Dr. Azel Backus, who was assisted by two professors and one instructor. Dr. Backus died suddenly in 1816 and was succeeded by Rev. Henry Davis, who administered the affairs of the college for sixteen years of "mingled sunshine and disaster." Later presidents were Dr. S. E. Dwight, Rev. Dr. Joseph Penney, Dr. Simeon North, Rev. Dr. S. W. Fisher, Rev. Dr. S. G. Brown, Rev. Henry Darling and Dr. M. W. Stryker, who was in charge from 1895 to 1917. Under the guiding hand of these scholars the college grew steadily in the number of students, there being 175 in 1900, faculties and physical equipment. Some of the outstanding teachers were Edward North, Professor of Greek and Latin from 1843 to 1862, Eleaser S. Barrows, Professor of Latin Language and Literature, 1816 to 1861, Dr. Charles Avery, Professor of Chemistry from 1834 to 1869, and Dr. T. W. Dwight, Professor of Law from 1846 to 1858. Although founded by a Presbyterian missionary, and the recipient of assistance from the Presbyterian Church, Hamilton College has maintained throughout its history a non-sectarian position. Most of its early graduates became ministers, some of whom achieved considerable fame. Among its prominent alumni and benefactors mention should be made of Gerrit Smith, the Honorable Elihu Root, Clinton Scollard, Ezra Pound, William M. Collier and Samuel Hopkins Adams. Close to three thousand students had been graduated by the end of the nineteenth century. Hamilton College is located at Clinton, a short distance from Utica.

Not far from this time-honored institution stands another college of considerable fame known now as Colgate University. Originally, it was established by the Baptist Education Society of New York in 1820 and was called the Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution. Although conceived and maintained in behalf of the Baptist faith, admission was not denied to those of other creeds



provided the applicant intended to enter the ministry. Rev. Daniel Hascal was the first principal of this institution and Professor of Rhetoric. Others who assisted in teaching during the first twenty years included Rev. Nathaniel Kendrick, Professor Zenas Morse, Rev. Beriah N. Leach, Rev. Joel S. Bacon and Rev. George W. Eaton. In 1834 it had an enrollment of eighty-three students and possessed property valued at close to five thousand dollars. During these years it extended its offerings within an academic, a collegiate and a theological department, and while it had no authority to grant degrees, its graduates received such through an arrangement with Columbian College at Washington, D. C. In 1840 an attempt was made to obtain a college charter, but it was not until 1846 that an act was passed creating what was known as Madison University; at this time the institution began receiving students who did not intend to enter the ministry. Shortly thereafter a group of students and faculty wished to remove the collegiate and theological departments to Rochester. This led to a prolonged contest and was only settled by the establishment of two collegiate and theological schools, one at Rochester, the other at Hamilton.

Dr. Nathaniel Kendrick acted as president from 1846 to 1848 and was followed by Dr. Stephen W. Taylor who served for eight years. Rev. George W. Eaton held this office from 1856 to 1868 when Rev. Ebenezer Dodge became president. George W. Smith administered affairs from 1895 to 1899 when Dr. George E. Merrill became president. In 1891 the University was renamed Colgate University in recognition of James B. Colgate, whose generosity did much to promote the fortunes of this institution. Between 1846 and 1900 over fifteen hundred students were graduated, the enrollment in 1900 being 350. Among its faculty, mention should be made of Dr. Barnas Sears, Dr. Thomas J. Conant, Dr. A. C. Kendrick, Dr. Lucien M. Osborne, Professor John James Lewis, Professor James M. Taylor and Dr. William Maynard.

Another outstanding university in Central New York is Syracuse University. The genesis of this school of higher learning goes back to the founding of Genesee College in 1849 at Lima, New York, by the Methodist Church. Although doing excellent work, the fortunes of the college were crippled by the disadvantages of its location, and at the Centennial of Methodism in 1866 steps



were begun which ultimately led to the transfer of Genesee College, except for the Seminary, to Syracuse, sufficient funds having been raised by that city and the State Methodist Convention. Quite naturally, the citizens of Lima protested against this move but the action of the State Legislature in 1869 authorizing the removal clinched the matter for Syracuse. In the fall of 1871 instruction in the liberal arts was begun within the Myers block. Here Syracuse University remained until 1873 when the Hall of Languages was opened on a spacious campus in the southeastern part of the city. By this time the Geneva Medical College had been transferred to Syracuse where it became the Medical College of the University. The Fine Arts Department was also established at the same time. Later, in 1895, the College of Law was established and various courses had been started within Liberal Arts that pointed the way toward a College of Engineering. By 1884 the financial statement of the Board of Trustees showed a net property evaluation of over a half million dollars; at this time it had an enrollment of four hundred students, 188 of whom were in the College of Liberal Arts. Syracuse University has been a co-educational institution from its inception and, while originally founded as an organ of the Methodist Church, it has always followed a non-sectarian policy.

A chancellor was not appointed until 1872, though Rev. Daniel Steele, vice-president of the College of Liberal Arts, acted as such for a year. Dr. Alexander Winchell, a professor of the University of Michigan, was chancellor from 1872 to 1874 and was followed by Dr. E. O. Haven, who served until 1881 when Dr. Charles N. Sims assumed that office. In 1893 the Rev. James R. Day took over the affairs of the University and continued as chancellor well down into the present century. Under the guidance of these men and, supported by contributions from the Methodist Church and certain prominent citizens, such as John Crouse, Syracuse grew in size and influence. By 1900 it had a student enrollment of seventeen hundred men and women. Several new buildings were added during the late nineteenth century, such as the Memorial College for Women, now known as the Crouse College of Fine Arts, and a library which housed among other treasures the private collection of the German historian, Leopold Von Ranke.

Somewhat earlier in origin was Cornell University, located at Ithaca, New York. The inception of this institution goes back to an act of Congress in 1862 which provided for the sale of public lands, the proceeds of which were to be used to establish colleges of agriculture and mechanics in the various states. In the case of New York some talk ensued of founding a school, under the Federal grant, at Ovid, where the New York State Agricultural College was located. The tangled state of affairs at this school argued against such a decision and in 1863 the "People's College at Havana" was selected as the site for the new institution, provided that the college at Havana could meet certain conditions within three years; this it was not able to do. In the meantime the Hon. Ezra Cornell, high in the councils at Albany and the founder of the Cornell Free Library at Ithaca, began agitating in favor of Ithaca as the site for the new land grant college. After considerable debate the legislature finally approved of the idea and Cornell University was incorporated in 1865. A Board of Trustees was appointed who proceeded to arrange a course of subjects which embraced departments in both scientific and non-scientific fields. Suitable buildings were also erected and in 1868 the University was opened with Andrew D. White as President and Professor of History. In due time provision was made for graduate work and, in 1874, the Sage College for Women was opened. Among the buildings constructed during the nineteenth century mention should be made of the Memorial Chapel, Morrill Hall, Sibley College, Military Hall and Gymnasium, and the Sage College. In 1884 the total property evaluation of Cornell was close to five million dollars.

Andrew D. White continued as president until 1885 when he was followed by Charles Kendall Adams, who retired in 1892. Dr. Jacob G. Schurman then became president, an office which he honored well down into the present century. Under the direction of these men, all of whom were scholars within their own fields of knowledge, Cornell University rapidly forged forward and, in 1900, had a student enrollment of 2776. Possessed of ample funds and generously supplied with graduate fellowships, both the undergraduate and graduate work of the University, rose to a high standard—making Cornell University one of the outstanding institutions within the entire country.

In the meantime there was incorporated at Aurora the Wells Seminary for the Higher Education of Young Women. This institution, established in 1868, was named after Henry Wells, whose generosity and interest in the college had been shown for some time. Wells College was opened in the fall of 1868 with a class of thirty-six students, its first president being Rev. William W. Howard, who resigned at the close of one year. He was followed by Rev. S. I. Prime who continued to serve until 1873, when Rev. Thomas C. Strong took over the affairs of the institution. Dr. Edward S. Frisbee became president in 1875, and at the close of the century, Dr. B. P. Raymond was in charge. Wells College was never designed to be a boarding school for young women nor did its founder think in terms of a school of home economics; rather did he intend that it should provide adequate training comparable to what men were receiving at other institutions of higher learning. During the course of the century several new buildings were added, notably Morgan Hall, named after Edwin B. Morgan who generously devoted much time and effort to the development of the college. Starting with an enrollment of but thirty-six students, some of whom were preparatory pupils, Wells College had 340 by the end of the century. Among the faculty reference should be made to Miss Mary M. Carter, Miss Jane E. Johnson and Miss Helen F. Smith.

Another institution of higher learning in Cayuga County is the Auburn Theological Seminary, concerning whose early history some comment has been made in the previous volume. Founded in 1818 this seminary was incorporated in 1820 for the purpose of training "pious young men for the Gospel Ministry." Operating under the authority of the Presbyterian Synod of Geneva in Auburn, a small group of spirited teachers, including Rev. D. C. Lansing, Rev. James Richards, Rev. Henry Mills and Rev. Matthew La Rue Perrine, began instruction in 1821 to a student body that numbered but ten. Gradually the number increased until by 1900 the Seminary had an enrollment of three hundred. Not until 1893 did this institution have a president, the position then being filled by the Rev. Henry M. Booth who continued in that capacity until his death in March, 1899. He was followed by the Rev. Horace Bumsted. Among its buildings were Morgan Hall, the Welch Memorial and the Willard Memorial Chapel. Among its faculty



mention should be made, in addition to those already referred to, of Dr. Ezra A. Huntington, Dr. James E. Pierce, Dr. Willis J. Beecher, Dr. James S. Riggs, Dr. Samuel H. Cox, Dr. Baxter Dickinson and Dr. Edwin Hall.

In addition to these schools of higher learning there was founded at McGrawville, in Cortland County, the New York Central College. Founded in 1849 by the American Baptist Free Mission Society, this college advocated the principle of temperance, assured patrons that the students would not "be poisoned by tea, coffee or alcohol, while the polluting use of that disgusting, filthy, slave-grown weed, tobacco, is carefully excluded from the College Halls," and afforded instruction on the Christian and "manual labor" principle. Twenty students were enrolled in 1849; the following year there were 110, and that in spite of the fact that the college was hopelessly in debt. Timely assistance from Gerrit Smith eased the situation somewhat and encouraged the trustees to obtain articles of incorporation in 1851. Later, in 1858, Smith was persuaded over the advice of his good friend, Samuel J. May, to buy the college building and grounds; at this time there were 168 students enrolled, only sixteen of whom were in the college department. Debts forced the doors to close in 1859, though the following year an attempt was made to revive the school. Ultimately in 1864 the institution passed into use as a Union School under the name of the New York Central Academy and Union School.

In the meantime attempts were made to establish colleges at various other places. Between 1835 and 1837 the Oneida Conference of the Methodist Church tried to establish the so-called Auburn College, but the financial crisis of 1837 blasted this hope. Also at Auburn there was incorporated in 1852 the Auburn Female University, which never got under way but ultimately provided an impetus to the founding of the Woman's College at Elmira. Mention should also be made of Clinton College to which a provisional charter was given in 1816. Conceived by the Protestant Episcopal Church, this institution was never founded though it paved the way for the Geneva College, now known as Hobart College. A Methodist institution was also projected but never materialized at Ithaca, and an attempt to found the Marcellus-Skaneateles College in 1802 likewise failed. And for a time there

was talk of establishing a medical college at Auburn. On the other hand efforts toward the foundation of a military school at Manlius proved successful. Established in 1869 by Rev. F. D. Huntington, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, this institution rapidly developed into one of the foremost military academies of the country. Early in its history St. John's Military School for Boys, now known as the Manlius Military School, was under the direct patronage of the Federal War Department, a relationship that has continued ever since. Colonel William Verbeck was named president of this school, and under his direction several important buildings were erected. Verbeck's influence was most outstanding and his able management earned for him the respect of the entire country.





## CHAPTER XVII

### BENCH AND BAR



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## CHAPTER XVII

### *Bench and Bar*

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NO ACCOUNT of Central New York during the nineteenth century would be complete without reference to those splendid American citizens who honored themselves and the Inland Empire by their achievements on the bench and in the legal profession. Many of these gentlemen rose to high office in both State and Federal Courts while, others, as has been shown, entered the political arena and soon were drafted to serve at Albany and Washington. The accomplishments of these men brought national and even international fame and reputation, and their names are remembered not only in Central New York but throughout the nation. A majority of the Inland Empire's lawyers, however, devoted their efforts to their own communities. As a result, there developed a group of keen minded and public spirited men who not only generally maintained a high standard in their chosen profession, but most effectively helped to mold the life of the cities and villages in which they resided.

According to the judicial arrangement of the State of New York, one of the more important branches is the Court of Appeals. As a court of last resort, with appellate jurisdiction only, this court had its genesis in the Court of Errors, established in 1777, and which then consisted of the President of the Senate, the Senators, the Chancellor and Judges of the Supreme Court, or a major part of them. It was not, therefore, a court composed of trained lawyers and it was not until the adoption of the Constitution of 1846 that provision for such was made. Later, in 1869, and again in 1894, the structure of this body was altered, a provision being made for Chief and Associate Judges. During most of the century the



judges were elected. Between 1847 and 1870 Central New York was ably represented on this bench by Freeborn G. Jewett, Alexander S. Johnson, Greene C. Bronson, Hiram Denio, George F. Comstock, Ward Hunt and Charles Mason. Between 1870 and 1900, Central New Yorkers included Chief Justices Charles Andrews and William C. Ruger; the Associate Judges being Charles Andrews, Alexander S. Johnson, Francis M. Finch and Irving G. Vann. Johnson, Bronson, Denio and Hunt were from Utica, Jewett from Skaneateles, Comstock, Andrews, Ruger and Vann from Syracuse, Mason from Hamilton and Finch from Ithaca.

Nothing like an adequate account of the record of these men could possibly be compressed within the limits of this chapter. Nevertheless, mention should be made of Freeborn G. Jewett who began his legal work in the office of James Porter of Skaneateles. Starting as a master of chancery and local justice of the peace, Jewett became county surrogate in 1824, a position he held for seven years. During this period he served as a member of the Assembly, inspector of Auburn Prison, and was a member of Congress. In March, 1845, Jewett was appointed to the Supreme Court where he remained until 1847 when he was elected to the Court of Appeals. Ill health forced his retirement in 1853 and he died at his Skaneateles home in 1858. Politically, Judge Jewett was a Democrat and in 1828 was one of the State Electors who voted for Andrew Jackson. Among his many intimate friends was George F. Comstock of Syracuse who, having been admitted to the bar in 1837, became a reporter for the Court of Appeals; later, he was solicitor to the United States Treasury. Comstock was elected to the Court of Appeals on the American Ticket in 1855 and for six years filled that post with distinction. Vitally interested in education, he aided in the founding of Syracuse University, becoming one of its chief officers. He also assisted in the founding of the St. John's School for Boys at Manlius.

Active among Syracuse lawyers was John Ruger whose son, William C. Ruger, rose to great heights. Admitted to the bar in 1845, William C. Ruger soon attracted considerable attention in local legal and political circles. He was a member of the Democratic Party and attended several of the State and National conventions of that party. He ran twice for Congress but was defeated both times. In 1882 he was elected to the Court of Appeals of

which he became Chief Justice, a position he held until his death in 1892. Others of this Court from Onondaga included Charles Andrews who became Associate Judge in 1870, and Chief Justice in 1880 upon the resignation of Charles J. Folger of Geneva; later, in 1892, Andrews was elected for a full term. Concerning Irving



MEMORIAL CITY HALL, AUBURN

G. Vann, who was appointed to the court in 1895, comment will appear in the next volume.

From Oneida there was Alexander S. Johnson who lived a good part of his life in New York City. Johnson became a member of the Court of Appeals in 1851; later, in 1873, he was elected an Associate Judge of that court. Once a resident of Peterboro, Greene C. Bronson became surrogate of Oneida in 1819, and was elected to the Assembly in the same year. Five years later Bronson moved to Utica where he became a partner with Samuel Beardsley. Between 1829 and 1836 Bronson was Attorney General of the State, after which he was elected to the Supreme Court of which



he became Chief Justice in 1845. Two years later he was on the Court of Appeals where he remained until 1851. After his retirement from the bench, Bronson practiced law in New York City where he died in 1863. Then there was Judge Hiram Denio who practiced law at Whitesboro and Rome before moving to Utica in 1826; at that time he was district attorney, a post he held until 1834. In that year he became a Circuit Court Judge. In 1853, upon Jewett's retirement from the Court of Appeals, Denio was appointed to this body and in the fall of the same year was elected to fill out the term. In 1857 he was re-elected. At the close of this term he returned to his private practice at Utica where he died in 1868. Denio's office at Utica had been the class room, so to speak, for many a young lawyer among whom was Ward Hunt. Admitted to the bar in 1831, Hunt rose rapidly and in 1838 and 1839 was a member of the Assembly. Later, he became Mayor of Utica and in 1865 was elected to the Court of Appeals. He also served as Commissioner of Appeals in 1873, an office he left to become a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. Circumstances forced his retirement in 1882 and after four years of quiet practice he died.

The Honorable Charles Mason was Madison's representative on the Court of Appeals during the nineteenth century. Admitted to the bar in 1832, Mason practiced law at Watertown until 1838 when he moved to Hamilton and in 1845 became district attorney for Madison County. Two years later he became a Justice of the Supreme Court, and here he remained until 1868 when he was elected to the Court of Appeals. Upon his retirement from that bench he resumed his legal practice and died at Utica in 1879. Finally, among the judges of the Court of Appeals from Central New York was Francis M. Finch, of Ithaca, whose reputation and skill as a justice went far beyond the limits of Tompkins County. When Charles J. Folger was appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in 1880, Finch took his place as an Associate Judge, and in 1881 was elected for a full term.

Several of the above mentioned gentlemen had served on the Supreme Court before advancement to the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court was organized in 1777 on the basis of colonial experience. Between that date and 1821 the members of this court were named by the Council of Appointment, but by the Constitution



of 1821 they were appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate. Later, they were elected by the people, a procedure that is still in operation. During the earlier years of the last century these judges held office subject to good behavior; later, their tenure was terminated upon reaching their sixtieth year. In time this also was altered and a term of eight years was established only to be changed to fourteen at a later date. The Supreme Court has general jurisdiction in law and equity, subject to the appellate power of the Court of Appeals. For purposes of organization the State has been divided into several judicial districts, and the number of judges for each district has been increased from time to time. In 1846, for example, there were thirty-three judges for eight districts; today there are one hundred and twenty-four for nine districts.

Among the judges who have served on this court was Samuel Beardsley of Utica. Admitted to the bar in 1815, Beardsley practiced law at Watertown and became attorney for Oneida County in 1821. The next year he was elected to the Senate and in 1823 he settled at Utica. Shortly thereafter he became United States Attorney for the Northern New York Federal District, a position he held until 1830 when he was elected to Congress. Six years later he became Attorney General of New York and, in 1844, was chosen a member of the Supreme Court of New York of which he became Chief Justice in 1847. Among his many friends were John Savage, Greene C. Bronson and Philo Gridley, all of whom were members of the Supreme Court at various times. Gridley entered this court in 1847, prior to which he had served as district attorney for Madison County and in 1838 had been appointed Circuit Court Judge. Another prominent Supreme Court Judge was Daniel Pratt of Syracuse. Pratt first lived at Camillus where he studied law with David Hillis though in 1836 he moved to Syracuse and was admitted to the bar the year following. In 1843 he was appointed First Judge of Onondaga County, a post he held until 1847 when he was elected to the Supreme Court; here he remained until 1859 after which he resumed his practice at Syracuse as a member of the law firm of Pratt, Mitchell and Brown. Finally, in 1873 he was elected Attorney General of the State; he died at Syracuse in 1884.

Born at Pompey, Le Roy Morgan studied law with Daniel Gott of that village and later with Samuel L. Edwards of Manlius. Admitted to the bar in 1834, Morgan lived a few years at Manlius and then moved to Baldwinsville, practicing there until 1851. While at Baldwinsville he became district attorney for Onondaga, a position he held until 1851 when he moved to Syracuse. Eight years later he was elected to the Supreme Court; here he remained for sixteen years. At the close of this period he resumed his practice at Syracuse where he died in 1880. Morgan was succeeded on the bench by James Noxon who studied law in the office of his father, B. Davis Noxon, who we are told was a distinguished lawyer. In 1856 and 1858 James Noxon was State Senator and in 1875 was elected to the Supreme Court where he died in service in 1881. Another prominent member of this court from Onondaga was William S. Andrews, born at Syracuse, the son of Charles Andrews, one time Judge of the Court of Appeals. Andrews was one of the first lawyers in the county to study law at a law college, receiving his LL.B. from Columbia in 1882. Admitted to the bar in the same year he became a member of the law firm of Nottingham, Knapp and Andrews of Syracuse. Here he practiced until his election to the Supreme Court in 1899 for a term of 14 years.

His son, Paul S. Andrews, is today Dean of the College of Law of Syracuse University. Irving G. Vann of Syracuse was also a member of the Supreme Court late in the nineteenth century.

Samuel Nelson of Cortlandville was admitted to the bar in 1817 and in 1821 became postmaster of that village. He was also a delegate from Cortland County to the State Constitutional Convention of 1821, and in 1823 was appointed Circuit Court Judge, an office he held for eight years. When William L. Marcy retired from the Supreme Court in 1831, Governor Throop appointed Judge Nelson to fill that vacancy and in 1837 he became Chief Justice. Here he remained until 1845 when he became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, a position he held for many years. Among his friends at Cortlandville was John Miller who studied law with Augustus Donnelly of the same village. Miller was a diligent and earnest student and in a short time was admitted to the bar. In 1845 he was elected to the Assembly and in the following year became a delegate to the State Constitutional Con-

vention. Though elected to the Senate in 1847 he resigned in order to become a member of the State Supreme Court.

Peter B. McLennan, though born in Cattaraugus County, lived at Syracuse from 1873. He was admitted to the bar in 1876 and was associated with a number of different law firms in that city. For a time he was also a general counsellor for the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad. In 1892 he was elected to the Supreme Court for a term of fourteen years. Politically, Judge McLennan was Republican. Likewise a member of that party was James R. Lawrence who studied law at Onondaga Hill, practiced for a time at Camillus and then became a resident of Syracuse in 1840. After serving as a County Judge from 1847 to 1850 he became United States Attorney for the Northern New York District. Lawrence always took a keen interest in politics and served several terms in the Assembly.

It is of course quite impossible to give anything like an adequate account of the various county judges, though a list appears in the appended tables. A sampling, here and there, however, will illustrate the high type of men who served in this capacity. A constable of Cortland County in 1814, Joseph Reynolds of the town of Virgil was appointed Justice of the Peace, a position he held from 1815 to 1837. In 1818 he was elected to the Assembly and three years later became Judge of Cortland County, an office he held for nearly eighteen years. During these years he was a loyal member of the Democratic Party and in 1834 was elected to Congress. He moved from Virgil to Cortlandville in 1839. Born in Cincinnati, Lewis Kingsley studied law with B. F. Rexford of Norwich, and was admitted to the bar in 1846. For the next five years he practiced law at Cincinnati and then moved to Cortlandville. While at the former place he served as Supervisor and Town Clerk. In 1849 he was elected to the Assembly and in 1851 became County Judge and Surrogate; five years later he returned to Norwich where he formed a partnership with Mr. Rexford. Also of Cortland was R. Holland Duell who at one time studied law with Charles B. Sedgwick of Syracuse. Admitted to the bar in 1845, Duell practiced for a time at Fabius but in 1847 moved to Cortlandville where he became a partner with Judge Henry Stephens. In 1850 Duell became district attorney for that county and was re-elected to that office in 1853. Two years later he became County



Judge and in 1858 was elected to Congress. Others who served as county judge in Cortland were Stephen Brewer, Abraham P. Smith, Stratton S. Knox and Joseph E. Eggleston. Mr. Eggleston became judge in 1890 and served in that capacity until 1918.

In Onondaga, one of the more important county judges was James R. Lawrence who studied law with Medad Curtis of Onondaga Hill. Later he moved to Camillus where he practiced with his brother, Grove Lawrence, who was county judge in 1838. In 1840 James R. Lawrence moved to Syracuse and served as county judge from 1847 to 1850 after which he became a United States Attorney for the Northern New York District. Then there was Samuel L. Edwards who studied law with Randall and Wattles of Manlius. Admitted to the bar in 1815 he soon established a reputation and was elected to the Assembly in 1823. Eight years later he became county judge and, in 1833, was elected to the State Senate where he served for eight years. Another prominent lawyer and politician was Nehemiah H. Earll who studied law at Skaneateles and Onondaga Valley. Admitted to the bar in 1809, Earll began practicing in Salina where he became a partner with Daniel Moseley. In 1823 he was appointed county judge, an office he resigned in 1831 to become Superintendent of the State Salt Works. In 1838 he moved to Syracuse and was elected to Congress. Defeated for re-election in 1840, Earll resumed his practice until 1860 when he moved to Mottville where he died in 1872. Israel S. Spencer gained his legal training at Canastota. He moved to Syracuse in 1845 and served as county judge between 1850 and 1854. Spencer was an extensive traveler and donated most of his books to the Central Library, the ancestor of the present Syracuse Public Library. Others who served as county judge in Onondaga were Henry Riegel, A. J. Northrup, W. R. Ross and Richard Woolworth, the latter holding that office in 1850 and again in 1858.

County judges in Madison included Justin Dwinell who acquired a knowledge of law at Troy where he was admitted to the bar in 1811. In the same year he began to practice at Cazenovia and in 1823 was appointed county judge, an office he filled until 1828. In 1821 and 1822 he was a member of the Assembly, and in 1823 was elected to Congress. From 1840 to 1842 he was postmaster at Cazenovia where he died in 1850. Thomas Barlow was the last county judge to be appointed in Madison County. He was

admitted to the bar in 1834 and practiced law at Canastota. In 1842 Barlow was Superintendent of Common Schools and held the position of judge from 1843 to 1847. Politically he was a Free Soil Democrat until 1856 when he became a Republican; he died at his Canastota home in 1896. James Warren Nye was the first



CAMPUS VIEW, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE

elected county judge of Madison, an office he held from 1847 to 1852. Nye studied law at Troy and began his practice at Hamilton. In 1844 he was appointed surrogate and in 1848 was defeated for Congress as a Free Soil Democrat. In 1852 he moved to Syracuse though in 1857 he went to New York City where he became President of the Metropolitan Police Board. Three years later he was appointed Governor of the Territory of Nevada and was elected a Senator from that state in 1865. He died at White Plains in 1876. Another judge was Sidney T. Holmes who held that office from 1851 for about ten years. Judge Holmes was elected to Congress in 1864 on the Union ticket, polling 14,638 votes to



his Democratic opponent's, 9781. Then there was Charles L. Kennedy who was admitted to the bar in 1847, practiced at Morrisville and Chittenango, became deputy clerk of Madison County and in 1868 was elected county judge, a post he held until his death in 1883. Kennedy was followed by Benjamin F. Chapman who until 1880 lived at Clockville; he then moved to Oneida City. Admitted to the bar in 1841, Governor Cleveland appointed him county judge in 1883 to fill the vacancy caused by Kennedy's death. Finally, mention should be made of John E. Smith who practiced for a time at Morrisville. From 1877 to 1879 he was district attorney for Madison and State Senator from 1886 to 1887. Two years later he became an Assistant Federal Attorney and upon the death of Judge A. D. Kennedy in 1899 was appointed county judge; in 1900 he was elected for a term of six years. He died at Morrisville in 1907.

In addition to these gentlemen there were a number of lawyers in Central New York worthy of special mention. There was Daniel Gott of Pompey and Syracuse, who was elected to Congress on the Whig ticket in 1846, Amasa H. Jerome of Manlius, county surrogate in 1855, Benoni Lee of Skaneateles, Thomas T. Davis, Republican Congressman in 1862, and Charles B. Sedgwick, also a Congressman and attorney for Gerrit Smith of Peterboro. One of the most conspicuous lawyers of Syracuse was Elias Leavenworth who having served as trustee of the village became its president and in 1849 was elected Mayor of the city. In 1853 he was elected Secretary of State and in 1875 was elected to Congress. Leavenworth was also active in many business and charitable organizations, notably as an officer of the Syracuse Savings Bank. Others included William James Wallace, United States Circuit Judge in 1882, Charles L. Stone, Referee in Bankruptcy in 1898, Frank Hiscock, United States Senator, Martin A. Knapp, member of the United States Interstate Commerce Commission, and Joseph F. Sabine, United States Commissioner in 1850.

Cayuga County also has had a prominent list of lawyers including such men as Gershom Powers, Joseph Richardson, George Humphreys, Charles C. Dwight, S. E. Day, William E. Hughett and George Underwood, all of whom were county judges during the



nineteenth century. More outstanding was Enos T. Throop who was born at Johnstown, New York, in 1784. Throop was a member of Congress from 1815 to 1817 and was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State in 1828. The following year he became Governor upon Van Buren's resignation, and in 1830 was elected Governor on the Democratic ticket. Throop died at Auburn in 1874. Then there was William H. Seward, born at Florida, New York, in 1801 and died at Auburn, in 1872. Seward was a member of the State Senate from 1831 to 1833, and in 1834 was defeated for the governorship by Marcy. However, in 1838 he was elected Governor of the State. Between 1849 and 1861 he was United States Senator where he exercised a wide and lasting influence upon the conduct of government. Seward lost the nomination for presidency to Abraham Lincoln but became Secretary of State in the latter's cabinet; he retired from that office in 1869. In many respects, Seward was Central New York's most outstanding statesman and political leader during the nineteenth century.

Though born at Pompey Hill in 1810, Horatio Seymour lived most of his life at Utica. He was a member of the Assembly in 1842 and 1844, and in 1845 was elected Speaker of that body. Later in the same year his fellow citizens honored him by electing him Mayor of Utica. Success in that office marked him for promotion within the Democratic Party and in 1850 he became a candidate for governor. Though defeated, Seymour ran again in 1852 and this time was elected. Re-election was denied him in 1854 but in 1862 he became Governor again. The Republican victory of 1864 swept him out of the Governor's mansion though he continued to play an active rôle in state and national politics, and in 1868 he was drafted by the Democrats as their candidate for the presidency. Seymour was defeated. After this he resumed his life at Utica from which he moved in a short time. He died at Deerfield, New York, in 1886. Other leading lawyers from Oneida who entered public service, and about whom something has been said elsewhere in this volume, were Francis Kernan and Roscoe Conkling. Mention should also be made of Samuel A. Talcott of Utica, Attorney-General of New York from 1821 to 1829, Alexander H. Bailey, State Senator from Rome, 1862 to

1865, Samuel Campbell of New York Mills, State Senator from 1866 to 1869 and Thomas E. Clark, State Senator from Utica, 1848 to 1849.

Among Republican leaders of the last century one of the most active was Alonzo B. Cornell born at Ithaca in 1832 and died there in 1904. In 1868 he was defeated for the office of lieutenant governor and in the following year became Commissioner of Construction for the new state Capitol building. Between 1869 and 1873 he was Surveyor of the Port of New York and in 1873 he became Speaker of the Assembly. Seven years later he was elected Governor of the State. Others from Tompkins who rose to high political office were Stephen B. Cushing of Ithaca, Attorney-General from 1855 to 1857, Ezra Cornell, State Senator from Ithaca, 1864 to 1867, and Edward S. Esty, State Senator from 1884 to 1885. From Madison there was Charles Stebbins, born at Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1789 and died at Cazenovia in 1873. Mr. Stebbins served in the War of 1812 and was clerk of Cazenovia in 1814. Ten years later he was elected President of that village and from 1825 to 1829 was a member of the State Senate. As President of the Senate he became acting Lieutenant Governor when Enos T. Throop took Van Buren's place as governor. Then there were William K. Fuller, Adjutant General in 1823, Benjamin Enos, Canal Commissioner in 1842, John J. Foote, State Senator from Hamilton from 1858 to 1859, and Charles Kellogg of Chittenango, State Senator, 1874 to 1875.

Another Lieutenant Governor from Central New York was John Tracy of Oxford who served from 1832 to 1838. Others from Chenango included Alvah Hunt, elected State Treasurer in 1847, David La Follett, elected Supreme Court Justice in 1874, Robert Monell, Circuit Judge in 1831, John F. Hubbard, State Senator from Norwich, 1868 to 1871, and Elizur H. Prindle, United States Representative from Norwich, 1871 to 1873. Henry S. Randall and Horatio Ballard, both from Cortlandville, were Secretaries of State in 1851 and 1861 respectively. Finally, in our list of state officers, mention should be made of Thomas G. Alvord and Dennis McCarthy, both of Syracuse, who were elected Lieutenant Governor in 1864 and 1885 respectively.

## COUNTY JUDGES

WITH

DATE OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION.

## CAYUGA

Phelps, Seth, 1799  
 Wood, Walter, 1810  
 Miller, Elijah, 1817  
 Powers, Gershom, 1823  
 Richardson, Joseph, 1827  
 Hulbert, John P., 1847  
 Humphreys, George, 1851  
 Dwight, Charles C., 1859  
 Hughett, William E., 1863  
 Day, S. E., 1877  
 Underwood, George, 1889

## CHENANGO

Foot, Isaac, 1800  
 Thompson, Joel, 1807  
 German, Obadiah, 1814  
 Clapp, James, 1819  
 Tracy, Uri, 1819  
 Tracy, John, 1823  
 Purdy, Smith M., 1833, 1847  
 Bigelow, Levi, 1838  
 Judson, Russell, 1843, 1851  
 Clark, D. H., 1855  
 Prindle, Horace G., 1863  
 Jenks, William F., 1877  
 Gladding, Albert F., 1889

## CORTLAND

Keep, John, 1810  
 Mallery, William, 1823  
 Reynolds, Joseph, 1833  
 Stevens, Henry, 1838  
 Hawkes, Daniel, 1847  
 Kingsley, Lewis, 1851  
 Duell, R. H., 1855  
 Brewer, Stephen, 1859  
 Crandall, Hiram, 1859  
 Smith, Abraham P., 1867  
 Knox, Stratton S., 1883  
 Eggleston, Joseph E., 1890

## MADISON

Smith, Peter, 1807  
 Dwinell, Justin, 1823  
 Eldredge, James B., 1833  
 Yates, John B., 1837  
 Barlow, Thomas, 1843  
 Nye, James W., 1847  
 Holmes, Sidney T., 1851  
 Mason, Joseph K., 1863  
 Kennedy, Charles L., 1867  
 Chapman, B. F., 1883  
 Kennedy, Alfred, 1883  
 Smith, John, 1899

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Sanger, Jedediah, 1798  
 Miller, Morris S., 1810  
 Beardsley, Samuel, 1824  
 Storrs, Henry, 1825  
 Hayden, Chester, 1830  
 White, Fortune C., 1840  
 Root, P. Sheldon, 1845, 1847  
 Smith, George W., 1859  
 Willard, Joel, 1867  
 Bailey, Alexander H., 1871  
 Bliss, William B., 1874  
 Sutton, William B., 1880  
 Evans, Isaac S., 1886  
 Dunmore, Watson T., 1892

## ONONDAGA

Phelps, Seth, 1794  
 Humphrey, Reuben, 1804  
 Bradley, Dan, 1807  
 Forman, Joshua, 1811  
 Forman, Gideon, 1823  
 Earll, Nehemiah H., 1823  
 Edwards, Samuel L., 1831  
 Watson, John, 1833  
 Lawrence, Grove, 1838  
 Pratt, Daniel, 1840  
 Lawrence, James R., 1847  
 Spencer, Israel, 1850  
 Northrup, A. J., 1883  
 Woolworth, Richard, 1854  
 Riegel, Henry, 1863  
 Ross, William, 1895

## TOMPKINS

Comstock, Oliver, 1817  
 Smith, Rich., 1818  
 Bruyn, A. D. W., 1826  
 Dana, Amasa, 1837  
 Barbo, Henry, 1843  
 Wells, Alfred, 1847  
 Boardman, Douglass, 1851  
 Wisner, Samuel, 1855  
 Walbridge, Henry, 1859  
 Van Valkenburg, M., 1867  
 Lyon, Marcus, 1874  
 Almy, Bradford, 1891





CHAPTER XVIII  
CENTRAL NEW YORK'S PRESS





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## CHAPTER XVIII

### *Central New York's Press*

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EQUALLY interesting in the annals of the Inland Empire is the splendid record maintained by the press. According to the Federal Census of 1880, which contains a summary of newspapers within the United States, there were nine papers in Central New York that had been in existence fifty years or more. Utica was given the honor of having the oldest, namely, the *Morning Herald and Gazette*. Originally, this paper started at New Hartford in 1793 under the guidance of William McLean, and was known as the *Whitestown Gazette*. After a five-year stay in that village, McLean moved his paper to Utica where it appeared as the *Whitestown Gazette and Cato's Patrol*. Ill health forced McLean to dispose of the same in 1803 to John H. Lathrop, who renamed the paper the *Patriot*, though the next year it appeared as the *Utica Patriot* and as such continued publication until 1816. A year earlier, Seward and Williams had started at Utica the *Patrol*, which in January, 1816, merged with the *Patriot* under the title, the *Utica Patriot and Patrol*. For almost a year this paper appeared semi-weekly; later it became a weekly, the proprietors being Asahel Stewart, William H. Maynard and William Williams. Four years later it was renamed the *Utica Sentinel*, Williams being the sole editor and proprietor. Later it was sold to Samuel D. Dakin and William J. Bacon who united it with the *Columbian Gazette*, started at Utica in 1803 by T. Walker, in 1825 as the *Utica Sentinel and Gazette*. Dakin and Bacon continued to operate the same until 1828 when the latter retired. Two years later, George S. Wilson founded the *American Citizen*, but within a year

it was absorbed by Dakin's paper as was the *Utica Intelligencer*, started by William Tracey in 1826. Further expansion followed in 1834 when Rufus Northrup, then owner of the *Utica Sentinel*, gained control of the *Elucidator*, begun in 1829 as an anti-Masonic paper by Beriah B. Hotchkin under the name of the *Oneida Whig*.

Pleased with the success that attended his efforts, Northrup, in 1842, began issuing a daily known as the *Utica Daily Gazette* which for a few months had a rival in the *Morning News* owned by J. M. Lyon. Richard U. Sherman, Erastus Clark, Ezekial Bacon and others served as editors for Northrup until 1853, when the paper was sold along with the weekly to J. M. Lyon who renamed the latter the *Weekly Gazette*. Three years later, Lyon transferred the weekly to N. D. Jewell who ran it as the *Weekly Gazette and Courier*. Jewell also bought the *Daily Gazette* in 1856, but sold both papers the following year to Ellis H. Roberts who united the daily with his *Oneida Morning Herald* under the name of the *Morning Herald and Daily Gazette*. The *Oneida Morning Herald* as well as the *Weekly Herald* had been founded at Utica in 1847 by Robert W. Roberts. Under the new management the weekly became known as the *Weekly Herald and Gazette*. Politically, these papers were Republican and exercised much influence throughout Utica and Oneida County. Ellis H. Roberts was still the owner of these papers in 1886, though at the close of the century the control was vested in the Herald Publishing Company.

Another early Utica paper was the *Observer*, started by Elisaph Dorchester in 1816 as an organ of the Republican Party of Madison and Monroe. Two years later, Dorchester moved his paper to Rome and issued it as the *Oneida Observer*, though within a year it was back at Utica under its old name. A. G. Dauby acquired control of the paper in a short time. Others who followed in his footsteps include E. A. Maynard under whose direction the *Observer* prospered. In 1848, the owners, Kittle and Beardsley, began issuing the *Daily Observer* and in 1853 united it with the *Utica Democrat*, founded a year earlier by T. G. Floyd, under the name of the *Observer and Democrat*. As the name indicates, both the daily and weekly editions were organs of the Democratic Party. Both of these papers continued to appear throughout the remainder of the century, E. P. Bailey being the editor since 1886. The *Daily Observer* was an evening paper.

Many other papers appeared at Utica during the last century such as the *Utica Telegraph*, founded in 1849 by Wesley Bailey, the *Utica Daily News*, established by J. M. Lyon in 1842, the *Central State Journal*, started by W. Paine in 1850, the *Sunday Tribune*, founded in 1877, and the *Evening Dispatch*, which started as a daily in 1899 and ran in conjunction with the *Tribune*. The *Utica Press*, daily and weekly, founded in 1882 and 1884, respectively, were being published in 1900 by the Utica Press Company. Then there were a number of religious papers, weekly and monthly, such as the *Utica Repository*, started in 1822 by William Williams, the *Baptist School Journal*, begun by C. Bennett in 1828, the *Wesleyan Methodist*, established in 1841 by David Plumb, the *Olive Branch*, instituted by the Spiritualists in 1875, and the *Church Eclectic*, founded in 1873 as the organ of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Several Welsh papers also appeared like the *Y Waur*, founded in 1865, *Y Dryach*, started in 1851, and *Y Cyfail o'r Hen Wlad*, established in 1837 at New York City but later was moved to Rome and then to Utica. Several temperance sheets like the *Washingtonian*, founded by J. C. Donaldson in 1843 and the *Central City Cadet*, begun by James and Howard in 1849, were also published at Utica. Paul Kreiser's *Utica Deutsche Zeitung*, started in 1854 and edited by John C. Schreiber in 1900 illustrates a German paper, while the *Friend of Man*, founded by William Goodell in 1836, shows the influence of the abolitionists.

Elsewhere in Oneida a number of papers appeared like the *Sangerfield Intelligencer*, begun by J. Tenney in 1825 and which earlier was known as the *Civil and Religious Intelligencer*. Then there was the *Rome Sentinel*, which started as a weekly in 1821 and whose owners issued a daily edition beginning in 1881. A. C. Kessinger was editor of this paper between 1886 and 1900. Two other papers, the *Citizen* and the *Republican*, founded at Rome in 1840 and 1891, respectively, were being published in 1900. The *Oriskany News*, an independent weekly founded in 1869, was operated by W. S. Phillips at the close of the century, while W. S. Hawkins controlled the *Times and Hop Reporter of Waterville* in 1900. At the same time, W. C. Stone was publishing the *Camden Advance-Journal*, founded in 1873, and J. B. Sykes the *Clinton Courier*, begun in 1846 by Paine and McDonald. Those



interested in the history of these and other papers will find detailed information in the various histories of Oneida County.

Turning to Onondaga, one finds that in 1880 the oldest paper was the *Morning Standard*, the genesis of which goes back to 1816 when Evander Morse began the *Onondaga Gazette*. Five years later Morse sold the same to Cephas McConnell who renamed it the *Onondaga Journal*; in 1827 Vivus W. Smith became the owner. Smith moved the paper to Syracuse in 1829. Now, Syracuse already had had two papers, one being the *Onondaga Gazette*, founded by John Durnford, the other was the *Syracuse Advertiser*, started by John F. Wyman and Thomas B. Barnum; both papers began in 1823, though the former in 1825 was known as the *Syracuse Gazette and General Advertiser*. Smith's arrival brought about a change in the Syracuse press, the *Advertiser* uniting with the *Journal* as the *Onondaga Standard*, Wyman and Smith being the proprietors. At the same time Durnford sold his paper to Lewis R. Redfield, founder and owner of the *Onondaga Register*, which began at Onondaga Valley in 1814. Like Smith, Redfield realized the growing fortunes of Syracuse and in 1829 migrated to that village, bought out Durnford and began issuing the *Onondaga Register and Syracuse Gazette*. After three years, Redfield disposed of his interests to Sherman and Clark who issued the paper as the *Syracuse Argus*; the latter ceased publication in 1834.

In the meantime Wyman and Smith continued the *Onondaga Standard*, but in 1832 the paper passed into the hands of Thomas A. and Silas F. Smith, with Vivus W. Smith retaining the post of editor. The latter was followed by his brother Asahel L. Smith, William L. Crandall, Marcellus Farmer and Patrick H. Agan, all of whom were able editors and exercised considerable influence in local affairs. Politically, the paper was Democratic. Under the direction of these men the *Standard* continued to prosper and, in 1847, its owners bought out the *Syracuse Democrat* which had been founded a year before by Clark and West as the *Onondaga Democrat*. Three years later the *Syracuse Reveille*, begun by William J. Palmer and William Summers in 1848, was absorbed. During this period of expansion Agan experimented with a daily issue of the paper, but after a few months in 1846 was forced to give up the venture. However, in 1850, the experiment was tried again and this time it did not fail.

Six years later Agan sold his rights to William Summers whose brother, Moses, handled the editorial work. Under the new management the *Standard*, both daily and weekly, endorsed the Republican Party, a position it continued to follow throughout the



OLD CHLORINE SPRINGS BATH HOUSE AND SWIMMING POOL, SYRACUSE

nineteenth century except during the presidency of General Grant, when it adopted an independent attitude. Among the editors during these years mention should be made of F. A. Marsh, George W. Edwards, Chester S. Lord and J. F. Durston. One of the business partners was Howard G. White who, early in the 1880s, acquired control of the paper, retaining Durston as editor until 1887, when Charles R. Sherlock took over that post, an office he held for many years. During the 1890s the *Standard* had a rival in the *Syracuse Post*, founded in 1894 by Frank Palmer and others; the *Post* was a morning Republican paper. The management also



gained control of the *Weekly Gazette* which then appeared as the *Syracuse Post Express*. Finally, in 1899, the *Post* bought out the *Standard*, and ever since that date it has appeared as the *Post Standard*.

Possibly the *Standard's* chief rival during most of the century was the *Syracuse Journal*. Originally, the latter, founded in 1839 by Vivus W. Smith and Silas F. Smith, was known as the *Western State Journal*. Five years later it was renamed the *Weekly Journal* and as such continued to appear throughout the remainder of the century. At the same time Silas Smith started a daily edition of the *Journal* which was issued regularly from that time on. The *Journal*, therefore, is the oldest *daily* paper in the county, though the *Standard* is the oldest paper. Among the *Journal's* owners were Vivus Smith, Thomas S. Truair, Seth Haight and D. Merrick; its editors included such well-known men as Edward Cooper, Carroll E. Smith, son of Vivus Smith, Andrew Shuman and James Terwilliger. In 1856 the *Journal* took over the *Syracuse Chronicle*, which had been founded in 1852. The *Evening Chronicle*, begun in 1853 by R. R. Raymond, an ardent abolitionist, was absorbed in 1856. Politically, the *Journal* eschewed a conservative policy and supported both the Whig and Republican Parties. The influence of the *Journal*, so we are told, extended far beyond the confines of the county.

Another outstanding paper was the *Syracuse Daily Courier*, started in 1856 by F. L. Hagadorn who, in a short time, sold out to H. S. McCullom who renamed it the *Central City Daily Courier*. Because the latter supported Breckinridge for president in 1860, those Democrats favorably disposed to Douglas began the *Union*. Daniel J. Halstead was the owner. After the campaign was over, these differences were forgotten and the two papers merged under the name of the *Syracuse Courier and Union*, Halstead remaining the proprietor. In 1872 the name was changed to the *Syracuse Daily Courier*, and as such it continued to appear until 1898. Among its various owners and editors mention should be made of Milton H. Northrup, John F. Nash and Herbert F. Prescott. In conjunction with the daily issue of this paper, a semi-weekly was published and in 1874 the *Sunday Courier* made its appearance, the latter disappearing in 1884.



Early in 1877, Arthur Jenkins, a job printer on Fayette Street, brought forth the *Syracuse Evening Herald*. Undaunted by the opposition of the older papers and handicapped by lack of capital and adequate equipment, Jenkins kept the paper going and increased its circulation to a point where its future was secure. Within a few years the Herald Company had won the respect of the city, its daily and Sunday editions, the latter starting in 1880, being eagerly read by several thousand subscribers. Among its editors and owners were Francis E. Leupp, Benjamin E. Wells, James E. Bailey and James S. Gordon. Another prominent paper was the *Evening News*, begun by M. C. Hutchins and M. H. Northrup as a Democratic organ in 1892 and which continued to appear until the latter part of the century. Then there was the *Catholic Sun*, also started in 1892, and which is still being published today. Many other papers appeared such as the *Onondaga Republican*, started by W. S. Campbell in 1830, the *Empire State Democrat*, founded by Hiram Cummings in 1840, the *Democratic Freeman*, begun in 1844 by J. N. Tucker and which became the *Syracuse Daily Star*, the *Onondaga Demokrat*, established in 1852 by George Saul, the *Syracuse Zeitung*, founded by Otto Reventlow in 1855, and the *Times*, begun in 1871. Several temperance papers such as the *Crystal Fountain* and the *Temperance Protector*, and several educational papers, like the *Teacher's Advocate*, were also published. *La Ruche*, begun in 1852 by A. L. Walliath, and the *American Citoyen*, founded by Dr. Cadeaux in 1868, were French papers. Religious publications like the *Religious Recorder*, the *Adventist*, the *Gospel Messenger* and the *Evangelical Pulpit*, also appeared as did the *Jewish Advocate* and the *Liberty Party Paper*. Concerning these and many others the reader will find full information at the Syracuse Public Library.

One of the oldest papers outside of Syracuse was the *Herald of the Times*, which ran at Manlius from 1808 to 1813, when it became the *Manlius Times*. Thurlow Weed assumed control in 1821 and renamed it the *Onondaga County Republican*; three years later it was the *Onondaga Republican* and in 1825 it was known as the *Manlius Repository*; it disappeared in 1835. Several other papers were printed at Manlius at various times and the century closed with the *Manlius Eagle* in operation. This paper was started in 1887 by F. L. Maine. In 1840 William H. Beau-

champ founded the *Skaneateles Democrat*, which continued to appear under different names throughout the remainder of the century. At Baldwinsville in 1844 Samuel West started the *Baldwinsville Republican*; two years later it became the *Gazette* under C. Mark Hosmer, and at the close of the century it was being published by the W. F. Morris Company. C. A. Roe issued the *Camillus Enterprize* in 1895, this paper having been founded in 1888. Then there was the *Tully Times*, founded by Raymond Wright in 1881, and sold to R. R. Davis who was publishing the same in 1900; F. R. Slayton issued the *Tully Sunday Morning Times* in 1900. W. F. Brand began the *Liverpool Telegraph* in 1892. Reference should also be made to the *Jordan Tribune*, the *Fayetteville Recorder* and the *Marcellus Observer*; the latter was founded by Edmund Reid in 1879 and was still being published in 1900.

In the previous volume mention was made of the *Madison Freeholder* and the *Pilot*, both papers appearing in Madison County before 1815. The next paper was the *Gazette and Madison County Advertiser*, established at Peterboro in 1817 by John B. Johnson. Two years later it was moved to Morrisville where it was discontinued in 1822. In 1829 John P. Van Sice brought to Morrisville the *Hamilton Recorder*, founded by John G. Stower and Peter B. Havens in 1817. Van Sice merged this paper with the *Madison Observer*, which had been established by Rice and Hall in 1821 at Cazenovia and brought by them to Morrisville the following year. Bennett Bicknell was the publisher of the *Madison Observer* between 1824 and 1829, when it became known as the *Observer and Recorder*. H. C. Bicknell and James Norton operated this from 1832 to 1834 when Norton became the sole proprietor. The next year it was renamed the *Madison Observer* and as such it appeared throughout the remainder of the century. Edward Norton was its owner in 1886. Other papers that have been published at Morrisville include the *Madison County Leader*, founded in 1885 and issued by John F. Brand in 1900. L. L. Rice started the *Republican Monitor* at Cazenovia in 1823; two years later it was taken over by John F. Fairchild and was published by him until 1841 when it was discontinued. Other papers published at Cazenovia include the *Student's Miscellany*, published semi-monthly in 1831 by A. Owen and L. Kidder, the *Cazenovia Democrat*, begun in 1836 by J. W. Chubbuck and which ran for less than a year; the



*Abolitionist*, founded by Luther Myrick in 1841 and which was discontinued in 1843, when Myrick joined with J. C. Jackson in operating for a short time the *Madison and Onondaga Abolitionist*, and the *Madison Republic*, established by W. H. Phillips in 1850 and which ran for about three months.

Then there was the *Madison County Eagle*, started in 1840 at Cazenovia by Cyrus O. Poole. Between 1841 and 1845 it was operated by Thomas S. Myrick and W. H. Phillips, and in the latter year it was renamed the *Madison County Whig*. Three years later H. A. Cooledge assumed control and issued it as the *Madison County News*, though in 1854 it was known as the *Madison County Whig* and as such it expired in 1857. Also, at Cazenovia, there appeared in 1851 the *Oneida Telegraph* by D. H. Frost, who sold out in 1854 to John Crawford, who issued the paper as the *Oneida Sachem*. Later, in 1863, it became the *Oneida Dispatch* and was owned by E. H. Purdy, W. A. Jackson and M. M. Allen during the 1870s and 1880s. In 1854, Seneca Lake started the *Cazenovia Republican*; later it was published by the Crandall Brothers and in turn by the Forte Brothers. Fred M. Taylor became proprietor in 1877 as was J. A. Loyster in 1900. The *Cazenovia Republican* was a weekly paper.

Nathaniel King published the *Madison Farmer* at Hamilton in 1828 and Lauren Dewey started the *Civilian* at the same place in 1830. Lewison Fairchild assumed control of the latter in 1831 and ran it for most of that year when it was discontinued. Three years later G. R. Waldron started the *Hamilton Courier*, which became the *Hamilton Courier and Madison County Advertiser* in 1835 and ran until 1838. Waldron tried his hand again in 1839 with the *Hamilton Eagle*, but the venture soon ceased. More successful was John Atwood who operated the *Hamilton Palladium* from 1838 to 1844. In 1842 Waldron joined with Wallace W. Chubbuck in publishing at Hamilton the *Democratic Reflector*. Waldron bought out his partner in a short time and in 1856 united the paper with the *Madison County Journal*, which had been started at Hamilton in 1849 by E. F. and C. B. Gould. Waldron renamed the paper the *Democratic Republican*. Between 1860 and 1863 J. H. Smith and A. Smith owned this paper, and in 1863 E. D. Van Slyke assumed control. Later W. E. Tooke became the owner, and in 1899 it was in the hands of Hawkins and Elliott.



Other papers published at Hamilton include the *Land Mark*, which ran during the campaign of 1850, the *Mill Boy*, of 1844, the *Democratic Union*, started in 1856 by Levi S. Backus and which was still being published in 1880, the *Democratic Volunteer*, which began as the *Independent Volunteer* in 1863, and the *Hamilton Recorder*, started in 1879 by A. B. Campbell.

Canastota's first paper was probably the *Vidette*, which ran for a short time in 1829. The following year Silas Judd and H. B. Merritt published the *Canastota Register*, though it died in 1831. Nor did the *Canastota Times*, begun in 1857 by George H. Merri-man, last much longer. The *Canastota Eagle*, begun by J. E. N. Backus, expired in 1861 as the *Canastota Valley Gazette* after a three-year existence. Arthur White's *Canastota Herald*, started in 1866, was sold to Walter C. Stone in 1871, but did not prosper long after that. As the century came to an end there were three papers operating at Canastota, one being the *Journal*, founded in 1881 and edited by P. F. Milmoie in 1900, the other two being the *Bee* and the *Clarion Press*, both started in 1889. W. A. Huntington was the owner of the latter in 1900, the former being operated by the Bee Publishing Company.

Turning to Chittenango one finds that Isaac Lyon started the *Chittenango Herald* in 1832. From then until 1856, when it was discontinued it appeared under the names of the *Chittenango Republican*, the *Phoenix* and the *Democratic Gazette*. Later, in 1870, Arthur White founded the *Chittenango Times*. By 1886 it was known as the *Madison County Times*, whose editor at the close of the century was Luke McHenry. In 1836 C. H. Maxon published, at De Ruyter, the *Protestant Sentinel*, formerly of Schenectady. The next year it passed to William D. Cochran who renamed it the *Protestant Sentinel and the Seventh Day Baptist Register*; James Bailey continued it from 1841 to 1845 when it stopped publication. Two years later A. C. Hill ran at this village the *National Banner*, which expired in 1847, while between 1848 and 1851 C. B. Gould managed the *Central New Yorker*. Equally short lived were the *Banner of the Times* and the *De Ruyter Weekly News*, founded in 1855 and 1862, respectively. In 1870 John R. Beden began the *De Ruyter New Era*, and in 1878 W. A. Ames started the *Weekly Gleaner*. Later these two were merged as the *New Era Gleaner*, Ames being the owner in 1900. At Peter-

boro, Pruyn and Walker, in 1854, published the *Christian Citizen* for a short time, and William B. Downer managed the fortunes of the *Journal of the Madison County Temperance Union*. Frank M. Spooner and Frank E. Munger founded the *Brookfield Courier* in 1876, which was still appearing as a weekly in 1900, Stillman and Spooner then being the owners. The *Earlville Recorder*, started by F. W. Godfred in 1876 lasted about eight weeks, but the *Enterprise*, established by Eugene M. Lansing in 1878 was still being published in the 1880s. In 1900 Burch and Briggs were publishing the *Earlville Standard*, a weekly founded in 1887. At Oneida City, Hector Gale started the *Oneida Free Press* in 1880; he was still editor in 1900. Baker and Maxon owned the *Democratic Union* of Oneida City in 1900, and C. P. Park & Company controlled the *Saturday Post*; these papers were established in 1856 and 1883, respectively. Last among the Oneida City papers in 1900 was the *Dispatch*, a Republican weekly founded in 1854. Other papers were published at various times in Madison County throughout the century, information concerning which may be found in the histories of that county.

James Percival had the distinction of starting the first newspaper in Cortland County. Located at Homer in 1810, Percival issued what was known as the *Cortland Courier*. Two years later he disposed of the same to H. R. Bender and R. Washburne who renamed it the *Farmer's Journal*. Dr. Jesse Searl became the owner in 1813 and for the next twelve years it appeared as the *Cortland Repository*. Milton A. Kinney purchased the same in 1825 and called it the *Cortland Observer*. Under Kinney's direction the paper became an anti-Masonic sheet and attracted considerable attention. Simon S. Bradford assumed control in 1833 but sold out, in 1836, to a Mr. Holmes who gave the paper the title, the *Homer Eagle*. The following year, Rufus A. Reed became the owner and he merged it with the *Cortland Republican* under the name of the *Republican and Eagle*. Reed continued to operate the same until 1852 when he sold out to E. F. and C. B. Gould, who called their paper the *Cortland County Whig*. Two years later, under Joseph R. Dixon, it became the *Cortland County Republican* and as such it continued to appear well down into the nineteenth century, though William O. Bunn, who acquired control in 1876, renamed it the *Homer Republican*.



In the meantime Percival had moved to Cortlandville where, in 1815, he started the *Cortland Republican*. Two years later it passed to B. S. Campbell but in 1821 it ceased to exist until revived by Rufus A. Reed in 1832; Reed already had founded the *Cortland Chronicle* in 1828. As mentioned before, Reed merged the *Republican* with the *Eagle*. One of the chief rivals at the time was the *Western Courier*, founded at Homer in 1821 by Roberts and Hall. In 1824 the latter was sold to D. Smith who renamed it the *Cortland Journal*. Later, Charles W. Gill and J. J. Cantine became the owners of the paper, Cantine calling it the *Cortland Advocate*. In 1838 David Fairchild purchased the paper, moved it to Ovid, New York, where it appeared as the *Ovid Bee*.

Another Cortlandville paper was the *Cortland Democrat*, established in 1840 by Seth Haight and Henry W. DePuy. Originally a Democratic sheet, the *Democrat* under James S. Leach, who became its owner in the late 1840s, espoused the Free Soil Party. Sometime around 1849 the paper became the property of Quimby and Hyatt; two years later, Henry G. Crouch assumed control and in 1855 the owner was Edwin F. Gould who renamed it the *Cortland American*, pledged to the interests of the Know Nothing Party. As such it ran for about two years when it ceased to exist. Later, in 1864, Henry C. Crouch and M. P. Callender revived the *Democrat* and as such it continued to appear throughout the remainder of the century. Among its owners after 1864 were C. A. Kohler, L. S. Crandall, Benton B. Jones and F. C. Parson. In the meantime E. D. Van Slyke had founded in 1858, at Cortlandville, the *Republican Banner*, which he sold to C. P. Cole three years later. Cole was already the owner of the *Cortland Gazette*, founded in 1857 by J. D. Robinson as a Democratic paper. Upon acquiring the *Banner*, Cole changed his politics and issued the *Gazette and Banner* as a Republican sheet until his death in 1869 when it passed to V. P. Gardner. The latter soon sold it to William H. Livermore who renamed it the *Cortland Weekly Journal*. Shortly thereafter F. G. Kinney acquired control and consolidated it with the *Cortland Standard*, which he had founded at Cortlandville in 1867; Kinney renamed the paper the *Cortland Standard and Journal*. In 1872 Kinney sold out to Wesley Hooker who, in four years, disposed of the paper to William H. Clark who called the paper the *Cortland Standard*. As founded in 1867 the



*Standard* was a daily paper and as such, together with a weekly edition, continued to appear throughout the rest of the century. Clark was still the owner in 1886, though in 1900 the Cortland Printing Company was in control. In addition to these papers, Cortlandville has had the *Cortland News*, founded in 1880 by C. H. Buell and E. M. Lansing, the *True American and Religious Examiner*, started by C. B. Gould in 1845, and the *Village Museum*, begun by J. Sutherland in 1820.

In 1870, Wallace Kelley, an agent for B. B. Jones, began the *Marathon Independent*, which in 1876 passed to Charles A. Brooks and A. H. Day. E. L. Adams acquired Day's share in 1878 and in 1880 became the sole proprietor. About the same time William Huntington founded the *McGrawville Sentinel*, which was still appearing in the 1880s. An earlier McGrawville paper had been the *Morning Star*, founded in 1858 and which had a short existence; it was followed by the *Central Reformer* which ran for a short time. Another early paper was the *South Cortland Luminary*, started by M. Reynolds in 1839 but which was soon moved to Fayetteville by its new owner, Wesley Bailey. Finally, mention should be made of the *Liberty Herald*, begun by James W. Eels and Nathaniel Goodwin as an anti-slavery paper. It soon passed to a Negro writer, Samuel R. Ward, and after a short time disappeared. In 1900, L. D. Blanchard was publishing the *Times* at Cincinnatus, founded by him as a weekly in 1898.

The October 28, 1939, issue of the *Ithaca Journal* carried the leader, "The Journal Now 124 Years Old." According to the article that followed, Ebenezer Mack began publishing this paper in May, 1815, though at the time it had no definite name and was printed on job sheets, dodgers and handbills. Pleased with the success he was encountering, Mack was about to issue a real newspaper when Jonathan Ingersoll arrived at Ithaca and started the *Seneca Republican*. In a few months, Mack gained control of the latter and having merged it with his own paper, named the new sheet the *American Journal*. In 1823 it became the *Ithaca Journal*, and later, the *Ithaca Journal, Literary Gazette and General Advertiser*. However, in 1842 it resumed the title, the *Ithaca Journal* and has remained so ever since. Mack took William Andrus as a partner in 1824 and eight years later the paper was sold to Nathan Randall. Other owners during the next eighteen years were a

Mr. Matteson, L. H. Eddy and Judge Alfred Wells. Between 1842 and 1870, John H. Selkreg assumed control, after which DeWitt J. Apgar became a junior partner until 1877 when the Journal Association was formed. John H. Selkreg, George E.



ITHACA VIEW (1867) LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM EAST HILL  
(Courtesy of De Witt Historical Society of Tompkins County)

Priest, Charles M. Benjamin and George W. Wood were the founders of this Association. Three years later the paper passed to Priest and Benjamin who were publishing it as a daily at the close of the century; the daily edition supplanted the weekly in 1872.

Another outstanding paper was the *Ithaca Chronicle*, founded in 1828 by D. D. Spencer who, in 1828, took as his partner, Anson Spencer. No other change of importance took place until 1855 when the paper passed to A. E. Barnaby, who called it the *American Citizen*. Anson Spencer regained control in a short time and in



1863 consolidated it with the *Tompkins County Democrat*, which had been established by Timothy Maloney in 1856 and which was owned by B. P. Williams and S. C. Clisbe in 1863. After this merger, Spencer and Williams ran the paper as the *Ithaca Citizen and Democrat* until 1867 when it became known as the *Ithaca Democrat*. At that time Spencer became the sole owner and continued as such until 1873 when Ward Gregory became a partner. Upon Spencer's death in 1878, Gregory acquired complete title and was in charge as late as 1886. In 1900, this paper was under the control of George E. Foster. In the same year that D. D. Spencer started his paper, there appeared the *Republican Chronicle*, the owners of which were D. D. Spencer and a Mr. Stockton. Why Spencer was interested in both papers is not known though it is established that in 1823 he became the sole owner of the *Chronicle*. Three years later, I. S. Chatterton was associated with this paper and in 1828 became sole owner. At that time the paper was known as the *Ithaca Republican*, later the *Tompkins American*, though in 1834 it was discontinued. Then there were the *Western Messenger*, founded at Ithaca in 1826 by A. P. Searing and which lasted for two years, and the *Philanthropist*, a Universalist sheet started at Ithaca in 1831 by O. A. Bronson and ran about a year. Shortly thereafter, in 1835, the *Jeffersonian and Tompkins Times* was begun at Ithaca by Charles Robbins in behalf of the political interests of Martin Van Buren. George G. Freer gained control in 1836 and renamed it the *Ithaca Herald*. Nathan Randall bought it the next year and soon merged it with the *Journal*, of which he gained ownership. H. C. Goodwin began the *Tompkins Volunteer* at Ithaca in 1840, then sold it to J. Hunt, Jr., who renamed it the *Tompkins Democrat*; shortly after he moved it to Chenango County.

Other papers of Ithaca include the *Flag of the Union*, established in 1848 by J. B. Gosman, but who merged it with the *Journal* two years later, the *Templar and Watchman*, founded in 1853 by Orlando Lund who sold out to M. S. Barnes, who ran it for a short time, the *Western Museum and Belles-Lettres Repository*, begun in 1821 by A. P. Searing and which ran for some two years, the *Ithacan*, started by George C. Bragdon and Haines D. Cunningham in 1868, and which was sold to Mr. Selkreg of the *Journal* in 1870, the *Ithaca Daily Leader*, begun in 1869 by William A. Burritt, and which lasted until 1872, the *Ithaca News*, established



in 1895 and whose owner in 1900 was M. M. Dayton, and the *Saturday Union*, founded in 1894 as a labor paper, whose owner in 1900 was J. B. Ryan.

Outside of Ithaca there was the *Rumsey's Companion*, started by H. D. Rumsey at Dryden in 1856, and which later was known as the *Fireside Companion* and also the *Dryden News*. G. Z. House purchased it in 1857 and renamed it the *New York Confederacy*; shortly thereafter it died. In July, 1858, Asahel Clapp revived it as the *Dryden Weekly News*. Three years later in conjunction with Cunningham and Clapp, the paper was moved to Ithaca, where it appeared as the *Weekly Ithacan and Dryden News*. In 1874 the paper was sold to George Ketchum, but within a short time Clapp regained control and was publishing the same in the 1880s. William Smith started the *Dryden Herald* in 1871. In a few months Osborn and Clark became the owners, and in 1876, Ford and Strowbridge. Later A. M. Ford was the owner, and in 1900 it was under Stillwell and Rose. The first paper issued at Trumansburg was the *Lake Light*, started by Phelps and Broome in 1827. This paper ran for about two years, some of its owners being Clark and Bloomer, and St. John and Clark. St. John was also the owner of the *Anti-Masonic Sentinel*, which ran a short time in 1829. More important was the *Trumansburg Advertiser*, established in 1832 by David Fairchild. Five years later it passed to E. S. Palmer and C. Fairchild, and then to Palmer who ran it as the *Trumansburg Advertiser and Tompkins County Whig* from June, 1838, to July, 1839. Charles H. Mason then became a partner, though this arrangement lasted but a short time and Palmer regained sole control. Not long thereafter the paper was discontinued.

Then there was the *Trumansburg Sun*, fathered by John Gray in 1840 until 1843 when it was known as the *Trumansburg Gazette*. John Creque soon gained control and published it until 1846 when the paper died. In that year the *Trumansburg Herald* was founded by S. M. Day, but within a year it had stopped. W. K. Creque tried his hand at the *Trumansburg Weekly Independent* in 1851 and 1852, and in 1860, A. P. Osborn began the *Trumansburg News*. Other owners of this paper before its death in 1863 were A. O. Hicks, N. W. Pasko and W. J. Van Namee. In 1866 Oscar M. Wilson began the *Trumansburg Sentinel*, which continued to appear

for several decades. Much earlier was the *Christian Doctrinal and Spiritual Monitor*, established by the Seventh Day Baptists at Mott's Corners in 1837 and which ran for several years. At Groton there appeared, in 1831, the *Groton Balance*, by H. P. Eels & Company; it soon passed to E. S. Kenney who ran it as the *Groton Democrat* until 1840. In 1866 H. C. March began the *Groton Journal*, though in 1872 he sold out to A. T. Lyon. Late in the same year L. N. Chapin became the owner. This was a Republican paper and was owned by L. J. Townley in 1886 and was being published by him in 1900. Finally, reference should be made to the *New Christianity*, started at Ithaca in 1888, by S. H. Spencer; this was a monthly paper for the Swedenborgians and was appearing in 1900.

Turning to Cayuga, one finds that the *Cayuga Patriot* was founded at Auburn in 1814 by J. G. Hathaway. Prior to this there had been several other papers, mentioned in the previous volume, but none of them had a long life. Hathaway was followed by Samuel K. Brown who stoutly defended the interests of Daniel D. Tompkins against the Federalist Party. James Beardsley became the owner in 1817, David Rumsey in 1819, and U. F. Doubleday, also in 1819. Isaac S. Allen became a partner in 1827 and shortly thereafter bought out Doubleday. Allen was associated with Willett Lounsbury in this effort until 1843, when Allen became the sole owner. Two years later Doubleday was in control; later Henry A. Hawes and Henry M. Stone acquired control and in 1847 it merged with the *Tocsin* under the name of the *Cayuga New Era* and ran until 1857, some of its other owners being Finn and Hollett and William L. Finn. The *Tocsin*, which appears to have been a revival, so far as name is concerned, of the *Cayuga Tocsin*, founded in 1812 at Union Springs, was started in 1839 by Miller and Hine as an organ of the Barnburner Party. Then there was the *Auburn Gazette*, begun in 1816 by Thomas M. Skinner and William Crosky as an independent paper; two years later it was known as the *Cayuga Republican* and continued as such under Thomas M. Skinner until 1863 when it was merged with the *Free Press*. This latter paper had been started by Richard Oliphant at Auburn in 1824. As merged it was known as the *Auburn Journal and Advertiser*.

Rev. Dirck C. Lansing established the *Evangelical Recorder* at Auburn in 1818 and ran it for about a year. Equally short in life



was the *Advocate of the People*, founded by H. C. Southworth at Auburn in either 1816 or 1818. In 1826, Rev. John C. Rudd, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Auburn, started the *Gospel Messenger*, and in 1828 Rev. L. S. Everett, a Universalist, began the *Gospel Advocate*; the first of these two papers was moved to Rome and was being published at Syracuse in the 1880s. Another religious paper was the *Auburn Banner*, which originally had been founded as the *Western Banner* by Edward Prince and Francis S. Wiggins in 1839. Earlier, in 1833, Prince had started the *Cayuga Democrat* which was succeeded by the *Auburn Miscellany*. The *Auburn Banner* was sold to the New York Methodist Book Company. Then there was the *Primitive Christian*, started in 1835 by Rev. S. E. Shepard, the *Conference Record*, begun by Rev. J. S. Chamberlain two years later, and the *Northern Advocate*, a Methodist publication founded by Rev. John E. Robie in 1841. Three years later, this paper was taken over by the Methodist General Conference and appeared for about twenty-eight years; in 1880 it was being published at Syracuse as the *Northern Christian Advocate*.

In the spring of 1833 there appeared the *Auburn Journal and Advertiser*. By 1846 the weekly edition of this paper was known as the *Auburn Journal*, the daily being called the *Daily Advertiser*; Mr. Richard Oliphant was the owner. Oliphant sold out to Henry Montgomery who, within less than two years, passed it on to Charles T. Ferris. George W. Peck and Oscar F. Knapp became the owners in 1849. In the meantime this paper had taken over the *Free Press* as related above. The proprietors of this paper continued to publish both the weekly and daily editions throughout the remainder of the century, the owners in 1900 being Knapp, Peck and Thompson; politically, the paper was Republican. One of the rivals of this paper was the *Auburn American, Daily and Weekly*, founded in 1855 by William J. Moses who dropped the word "American" in 1855 and in 1861 sold out to Knapp and Peck, who merged it with the *Advertiser and Journal*. Then there was the *Cayuga County Independent*, started in 1874 by J. N. Bailey as a weekly. Julius A. Johnson became the owner and editor in time and was publishing the same in 1900.

Other Auburn papers published in the nineteenth century include the *Cayuga Chief*, started by Thurlow W. Brown in 1849 as a tem-



perance paper and which after eight years was moved to Wisconsin, the *Christian Ambassador*, founded in New York City in 1850 and brought to Auburn the next year, where it was continued for about twelve years, the *Northern Independent*, established by Rev. William Hosmer in 1856 as an anti-slavery sheet and which ran for a short time, the *Auburn Democrat*, a weekly begun by Stone, Hawes and Company in 1857 and which was sold in 1862 to William S. Hawley, the owner of the *Spirit of the Times*, the *Auburn Daily News*, founded as a Republican paper in 1868 by Dennis Brothers and Thorne and which died in 1871, and the *Auburn Daily Bulletin*, established in 1870 by K. Vail and Company as an independent paper and which was being published in 1900 by the Auburn Bulletin Company. The weekly edition of this latter paper began in 1882. Then there was the *Deutsche Zeitung*, started as a weekly in 1888 and was being printed in 1900 by Lewis Schewe. S. C. Keith was the editor and owner in 1900 of the *Indicator*, a weekly publication started in 1893. Mention should also be made of the *Convention at Work*, a Universalist organ started in 1892, whose editor in 1900 was Rev. O. M. Hilton. Those interested in a fuller description of these Auburn papers, as well as some not mentioned, should consult the county histories of Cayuga.

Outside of Auburn there appeared in 1844 the *Port Byron Chronicle*, founded by Frederick Prince; later this paper seems to have been discontinued, though in 1861 another by the same name appeared, whose editor in the late 1870s and 1880s was Charles E. Johnson. In 1900 this paper was being published by L. H. King. In 1849 the *Port Byron Gazette* was started by Charles T. White who sold it in 1860 to B. W. Thompson who, in turn, passed it on to William Hosford the next year. Hosford disposed of it to Charles March in 1862 who renamed it the *North Cayuga Times*. In 1863 A. O. Hicks started at Moravia the *Cayuga County Courier*; it was sold in 1865 to W. M. Nichols and in 1867 to A. J. Hicks and A. H. Livingstone, the latter becoming sole owner in December of that year. Livingstone renamed it the *Moravia Courier* and continued it until 1870 when it was transferred to M. E. Kenyon, who called it the *Moravia Valley Register*. E. A. Beach was publishing the *Register* in 1900. Uri Mulford founded at Moravia, in 1872, the *Weekly News*, which was moved to Auburn

three years later and there ran for a short time as a prohibitionist sheet. Rev. Charles Ray brought forth the *Moravia Citizen* in 1876, devoted to religion and temperance. Later this paper was renamed the *Republican*, J. J. Pease being the owner in 1886 and P. M. Rathburn in 1900. At Meridian there ran in 1854 the *Meridian Sun*, and in the following year the *Meridian Advertiser*. Frederick Prince began the *Weedsport Advertiser* in 1827 and renamed it the *Phoenix* in 1830, and John Gibbs in 1867 began the *Weedsport Sentinel*. Four years later, Gibbs sold out to S. D. Lee who passed it on in 1872 to George R. Nash; later J. B. Rogers acquired a half interest; in 1900, this weekly paper was being published by G. R. Nash and Company. H. D. Brown and Company was printing, at the close of the century, the *Cayuga Chief*, which had been founded by that organization in 1877 at Weedsport. The *Weedsport Republican*, established as a weekly in 1891, was owned by W. E. Churchill and Son in 1900.

James B. Hoff started the *Union Springs Advertiser* in 1865, which was still being published by the Hoff family in 1900. L. D. Stafford was the proprietor in 1900 of the *Cato Citizen*, founded as a weekly in 1893, and W. E. Bennett of Fair Haven, was publishing the *Register* which had begun as an independent weekly in 1874. Reference should also be made to the *Genoa Tribune*, founded in 1891 and which was appearing in 1900 under the hand of Ames Bradley.

The first paper to be published in Chenango County was the *Western Oracle*, which appeared at Sherburne in 1803. In all probability this paper expired within three years though, in 1808, Finney and Fairchild brought out the *Sherburne Olive Branch*, which later became the *Volunteer*. In 1816 John F. Hubbard began issuing the *Norwich Journal*, which some authorities believe to have been a continuation of the *Volunteer*. Hubbard retained control of his paper until 1847 when he sold it to LaFayette Leal and J. H. Sinclair who merged it with the *Oxford Republican*. Originally, this latter paper had been founded at Oxford in 1826 as the *Chenango Republican* by Benjamin Cory; its name being changed to the *Oxford Republican* in 1831. Upon merger with the *Journal*, Leal and Sinclair named the paper the *Chenango Union* and continued to publish the same until 1854 when Leal sold his share to Harvey Hubbard. Five years later, Sinclair did the same.



Upon Hubbard's death in 1863, John F. Hubbard, Jr., assumed ownership, but in 1868 transferred the paper to G. H. Manning. Wells and Seaman were publishing the *Chenango Union* in 1886, though at the close of the century it was in the hands of E. S. Morse. Throughout its long history this paper, the oldest in the county from point of view of continuous existence, was a weekly devoted to the interests of the Democratic Party.

Earlier than either the *Republican* or the *Norwich Journal* were the *Republican Agriculturist*, founded by Thurlow Weed in 1818 and the *People's Advocate*, started by H. P. W. Brainard in 1824. Both of these papers, located at Norwich, survived but a short time though the *Anti-Masonic Telegraph* of Norwich, founded by Elias P. Pellett in 1829, was in existence in 1900. Pellett renamed his paper the *Chenango Telegraph* in 1831 and upon his death in 1840 Nelson Pellett assumed control. Fifteen years later, Rice Martin became the proprietor and, in 1861, took as his partner B. Gage Berry, who ultimately acquired sole control in 1864. The following year Berry united it with the *Chenango Chronicle* under the new name of the *Chenango Telegraph and Chronicle*. Later the word "Chronicle" was dropped. Berry was still editor in 1886, but at the turn of the century this position was being held by C. E. Merritt. During its history, the *Chenango Telegraph* was first a weekly, then a semi-weekly; its politics were those of the Republican Party. Other papers that have appeared at Norwich include the *Daily Reporter*, founded in 1857 by G. H. Smith, but which was discontinued the following year, the *Literary Independent*, begun in 1858 and which ran for several months, the *Sunday Times*, started by W. L. Griffing and which disappeared in a short time, the *Norwich Sentinel*, established in 1878 for the Greenback Party, but which ceased after the fall campaign of that year, and the *Morning Sun*, which was founded in 1891 as an independent paper and whose owner in 1900 was G. H. Carley.

John P. Johnson published in 1807 the *Chenango Patriot* at Oxford, but after three or four years this paper stopped. Later, in 1814, Chauncey Morgan began the *Oxford Gazette*, which soon passed to George Hunt who in a short time took as his partner a Mr. Noyes. Noyes became sole proprietor in 1826, though in a few years he allowed the paper to die. Then there was the *Chenango Whig*, which ran for a short time in 1835. The following



year a joint stock company started the *Oxford Times*. Later, this paper passed in 1841 to E. H. Purdy and C. D. Brigham, and in 1844 to Waldo M. Potter. The following year Potter admitted Judson B. Galpin, formerly of Woodbury and New Haven, Connecticut, as a partner, and in 1848 Mr. Galpin became the sole proprietor. Assisting the latter during the decades that followed was his brother, Theodore B. Galpin. The Galpin brothers were Republicans and continued to publish this paper throughout the remainder of the century. In 1853 G. N. Carhart printed the *Oxford Transcript* for about six months, and in 1863 LaFayette Briggs began the *Chenango County Democrat*, which appeared at various intervals. E. S. Watson assumed control of this paper in 1868 but it died within a short time.

Among the other papers of this county were the *Republican Messenger*, started at Sherburne in 1810 by Pettit and Percival, and the *Chenango Patriot*, begun at Greene in 1830 by Nathan Randall. Joseph M. Farr gained control of the latter and printed it as the *Chenango Democrat* for a time. Samuel L. Hatch founded the *New Berlin Herald* in 1831, but sold the same to Isaac C. Sheldon who, in turn, passed it on to Hiram Ostrander who issued it as the *New Berlin Sentinel* until about 1840. Then there was the *Sherburne Palladium*, begun in 1836 by J. W. Marble, but in 1839 this paper was moved to Binghamton. Equally short in life was the *Bainbridge Eagle*, founded in 1843 by J. Hunt and which ultimately was moved to Cobleskill. The *New Berlin Gazette* was begun by Joseph R. Fox and Moses E. Dunham in 1850. The following year it was owned solely by Fox who renamed it the *Saturday Visitor*. Three years later it was known as the *New Berlin Pioneer*, but in 1871 it became the *New Berlin Gazette* again. Fox was still the owner in 1886, though in 1900 it was in the hands of G. H. Willard who published it as an independent weekly.

A. T. Boynton started the *Chenango News* in 1850 at Greene. It soon passed to J. M. Haight who moved the same to Norwich where it appeared for about a year as the *Temperance Advocate*. Then there were the *Sherburne Transcript*, started by James M. Scarritt and which ran for two years, the *New Berlin Farmer*, begun by Squires and Fox, the *Home News*, by S. B. Marsh of Sherburne which ran for several years in the 1860s, the *Afton*

*Eagle*, which began and died in 1875, and the *Smyrna Citizen*, begun by George A. Munson in 1875 and which moved the next year to Earlville. Somewhat earlier was the *Chenango Leader*, started at Bainbridge in 1867 by G. A. Dodge who later renamed it the *Bainbridge Ledger*. About 1872 it became the *Saturday Review*, after which Dodge sold it to Harvey Ireland who merged it with the *Bainbridge Republican*, founded in 1871. Charles H. Clark was publishing this weekly as an independent paper in 1900. Another Bainbridge paper in existence in 1900 was the weekly *Express*, founded in 1894 and whose editor in 1900 was G. C. Rogers. Mention should also be made of the *Otselic Valley Register*, begun at Pitcher in 1874 by J. E. Lyons who, after four months, sold out to Eneas Fenton who in turn disposed of it to J. H. Graves. Two years later it was moved by D. V. Joyner to Cincinnatus.

At Afton in 1876, John F. Seaman began the *Home Sentinel*. This paper was still being published by him in 1880; in the same year the *Afton Enterprise* was started, N. E. Barton being the editor in 1886, and F. M. Spooner in 1900. For several years the *Guilford Wave*, founded by the Brown brothers in 1879, was published as was the *Quill and Press*, started at North Pharsalis in 1879 by Joseph C. White. Another paper, the *Chenango American*, still in existence in 1900, was founded as a Republican weekly in 1855 at Greene by J. D. Dennison and Francis B. Fisher. In 1868, Dennison bought out his partner, but the following year admitted George C. Roberts into the firm, both of whom were still publishing the paper in 1900. Burch and Briggs were operating the *Standard* of Earlville in 1900, this paper having been started in 1877.













